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RESTRUCTURING AND REVITALIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND RELATED FIELDS

Subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly in the economic, social and related fields

Report of the Secretary-General

ACRONYMS

ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
ECE	Economic Commission for Europe
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
ESCWA	Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
IBRD	International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (also known as the World Bank)
IMF	International Monetary Fund
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNRWA	United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

CONTENTS

	Paragraphs	Page
ACRONYMS		2
I. INTRODUCTION	1 - 5	6
II. SUBSIDIARY BODIES OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL	6 - 206	6
A. Functional commissions	6 - 78	6
1. Statistical Commission	6 - 15	6
2. Population Commission	16 - 24	9
3. Commission for Social Development	25 - 30	11
4. Commission on Human Rights	31 - 57	13
5. Commission on the Status of Women	58 - 62	19
6. Commission on Narcotic Drugs	63 - 78	20
B. Regional commissions	79 - 113	23
1. Economic Commission for Africa	79 - 87	23
2. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific	88 - 95	27
3. Economic Commission for Europe	96 - 101	29
4. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean	102 - 108	31
5. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia	109 - 113	34
C. Standing committees	114 - 150	35
1. Committee for Programme and Coordination	114 - 119	35
2. Committee on Natural Resources	120 - 125	40
3. Commission on Transnational Corporations	126 - 133	42
4. Commission on Human Settlements	134 - 139	44
5. Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations	140 - 148	45

CONTENTS (continued)

		Paragraphs	Page
	6. Committee on Negotiations with Intergovernmental Agencies	149 - 150	47
D.	Expert bodies composed of governmental experts ...	151 - 173	47
	1. Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods	151 - 160	47
	2. Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting	161 - 165	50
	3. United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names	166 - 173	51
E.	Expert bodies composed of members serving in their personal capacity	174 - 206	53
	1. Committee on Crime Prevention and Control	174 - 179	53
	2. Committee for Development Planning	180 - 188	55
	3. Meeting of Experts on the United Nations Programme in Public Administration and Finance	189 - 194	57
	4. Ad Hoc Group of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters	195 - 200	58
	5. Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	201 - 206	59
III.	SUBSIDIARY BODIES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND RELATED FIELDS	207 - 320	61
A.	Standing bodies	207 - 308	61
	1. Committee on the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy	207 - 210	61
	2. High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries	211 - 214	62
	3. Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development	215 - 222	63

CONTENTS (continued)

		Paragraphs	Page
4.	United Nations Children's Fund	223 - 230	66
5.	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development	231 - 240	68
6.	United Nations Development Fund for Women	241 - 250	71
7.	United Nations Development Programme	251 - 259	73
8.	United Nations Environment Programme	260 - 265	77
9.	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	266 - 274	78
10.	United Nations Population Fund	275 - 284	81
11.	United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East	285 - 288	83
12.	World Food Council	289 - 294	84
13.	World Food Programme	295 - 308	86
B.	Ad hoc bodies	309 - 320	89
1.	Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate Change	309 - 313	89
2.	Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development	314 - 320	90

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution 45/264 of 13 May 1991, decided to carry out a review, at its forty-sixth session, of the subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly in the economic, social and related fields, with the objective of possible restructuring and revitalization, and of their reporting procedures with a view to avoiding duplication, where possible.

2. In paragraph 6 of the annex to that resolution, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to provide relevant information, including information on the status of subsidiary bodies of the Council and the Assembly.

3. The present report contains basic background information on the subsidiary machinery of the Council and the Assembly in the economic, social and related fields. The information covers, for each subsidiary body, the terms of reference, membership and composition, term of office of members, reporting procedure and frequency of meetings.

4. Section II contains information on the subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council, which have been grouped, on the basis of their institutional status, into five categories: (a) functional commissions, (b) regional commissions, (c) standing committees, (d) expert bodies composed of governmental experts and (e) expert bodies composed of members serving in their personal capacity.

5. Section III contains information on the subsidiary bodies of the General Assembly in the economic, social and related fields, which have been grouped into two categories: (a) standing bodies and (b) ad hoc bodies.

II. SUBSIDIARY BODIES OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

A. Functional commissions

1. Statistical Commission

Terms of reference

6. The Statistical Commission was established by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 8 (I) of 16 and 18 February 1946. Its terms of reference were set out in resolutions 8 (I), 8 (II) of 21 June 1946, and 1566 (L) of 3 May 1971.

7. In accordance with resolutions 8 (I) and 8 (II), the Commission assists the Council:

(a) In promoting the development of national statistics and the improvement of their comparability;

(b) In the coordination of the statistical work of specialized agencies;

(c) In the development of the central statistical services of the Secretariat;

(d) In advising the organs of the United Nations on general questions relating to the collection, analysis and dissemination of statistical information;

(e) In promoting the improvement of statistics and statistical methods generally.

8. In paragraph 2 of its resolution 1566 (L), the Council considered that the ultimate goal of the work of the Commission should be the achievement of an integrated system in the collection, data processing and dissemination of international statistics by the organs and agencies of the United Nations system with special regard to the requirements of reviewing and appraising economic and social progress, taking into account the needs of the developing countries.

Membership and composition

9. In accordance with paragraph 3 of Council resolution 1147 (XLI) of 4 August 1966, the Statistical Commission consists of one representative from each of 24 Member States elected by the Council on the basis of an equitable geographical distribution, according to the following pattern:

(a) Five members from African States;

(b) Four members from Asian States;

(c) Four members from Latin American and Caribbean States;

(d) Seven members from Western European and other States;

(e) Four members from Eastern European States.

With a view to securing a balanced representation in the various fields covered by the Commission, the Secretary-General consults with the Governments thus elected before the representatives are finally nominated by those Governments and confirmed by the Council. The Economic and Social Council may in addition appoint, in their individual capacity, not more than 12 corresponding members from countries not represented on the Commission, such members to be appointed with the approval of the Governments concerned.

Term of office

10. The term of office of members is four years (Council resolution 591 (XX) of 5 August 1955).

Reporting procedure

11. The Commission reports directly to the Council. Its report is presented as a supplement to the Official Records of the Economic and Social Council.

Frequency of meetings

12. The Commission meets biennially (Council resolution 557 C (XVIII), sect. IV, of 5 August 1954).

Subsidiary body of the Statistical Commission

Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Coordination

Terms of reference

13. The Working Group was established by the Council in its resolution 1306 (XLIV) of 31 May 1968. The Statistical Commission, at its seventeenth session, agreed that the terms of reference of the Working Group should be:

(a) To deal with questions of policy, coordination and priorities of the statistical programmes of the United Nations system;

(b) To constitute a means by which the Statistical Commission could maintain contact, between biennial meetings, with the work of the United Nations Statistical Office and of the statistical services of the specialized agencies;

(c) To consider current questions, relating to the United Nations system, of organization, policies, arrangements and priorities for the electronic data processing of economic and social statistics, including data banks;

(d) To consider questions regarding the statistics required for purposes of the reviews and appraisals during the Second United Nations Development Decade (E/5236, para. 207).

Membership and composition

14. The Working Group consists of the officers of the Commission, that is, the Chairman, the three Vice-Chairmen and the Rapporteur; the representatives to the Commission of the two major contributors to the budget of the United Nations unless they are already represented in the Bureau; and representatives to the Commission from other Member States selected so as to ensure representation of both developed and developing countries and countries with different economic and statistical systems, bearing in mind that special attention should be given to ensuring representation of developing countries from among the members of each of the following regional commissions: ECA, ECLAC, ESCAP and ESCWA.

Term of office, reporting procedure and frequency of meetings

15. The term of office of members is two years. The Working Group meets biennially and reports to the Commission.

2. Population Commission

Terms of reference

16. The Population Commission was established by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 3 (III) of 3 October 1946. Its terms of reference, as set out in Council resolution 150 (VII) of 10 August 1948, are to arrange for studies and advise the Council on:

"(a) The size and structure of populations and the changes therein;

"(b) The interplay of demographic factors and economic and social factors;

"(c) Policies designed to influence the size and structure of populations and the changes therein;

"(d) Any other demographic questions on which either the principal or the subsidiary organs of the United Nations or the specialized agencies may seek advice."

17. The Council, in its decision 87 (LVIII) of 6 May 1975, decided to request the Population Commission:

(a) To examine on a biennial basis the results of the continuous process of monitoring the World Population Plan of Action, 1/ in accordance with paragraph 107 of the Plan of Action, and to bring its findings to the attention of the Council;

(b) To contribute, within its competence, advice for the comprehensive review and appraisal of the progress made towards achieving the goals and recommendations of the World Population Plan of Action and to report its findings to the Council.

18. By paragraph 5 of its resolution 1986/7 of 21 May 1986, the Council invited the Commission to act on the recommendations contained in paragraph 70 of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Follow-up to General Assembly resolution 39/228 on the International Conference on Population" (A/41/179-E/1986/18), which reads as follows:

1/ Report of the United Nations World Population Conference, Bucharest, 19-30 August 1974 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.75.XIII.3), chap. I.

"To provide the Population Commission with comprehensive information on the work of the United Nations and the United Nations system in the field of population and thereby place the Commission in a better position to provide the policy guidance expected from it, the following measures are recommended:

"(a) The Commission should receive a review of UNFPA activities from the Executive Director of UNFPA on a regular basis; the section of the report of the Governing Council of UNDP dealing with UNFPA should also be made available for information;

"(b) The Commission should receive through its substantive secretariat, the Population Division of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, periodic reports on the activities of the United Nations system prepared in collaboration with all organizations and agencies concerned. The Commission should be enabled, within its terms of reference, to discuss this matter and advise the Council on further improving cooperation and coordination within the system;

"(c) The Commission should also receive reports from its substantive secretariat on the work of non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations in the implementation of the World Population Plan of Action."

Membership and composition

19. In accordance with paragraph 2 of Council resolution 1147 (XLI), the Population Commission consists of one representative from each of 27 Member States elected by the Council on the basis of an equitable geographical distribution, according to the following pattern:

(a) Seven members from African States;

(b) Five members from Asian States;

(c) Five members from Latin American and Caribbean States;

(d) Seven members from Western European and other States;

(e) Three members from Eastern European States.

20. In its decision 88 (LVIII) of 6 May 1975, the Council decided that, in accordance with established procedures, the Secretary-General should consult with the Governments elected to serve on the Population Commission about the nomination of their representatives, in order to ensure a balance in representation of the various disciplines covered by the work of the Commission.

21. In order to maintain close liaison between the Population Commission and other bodies concerned with population problems, the Population Commission invites representatives from the Statistical Commission and Commission for Social Development to take part in the proceedings of the Commission without the right to vote.

Term of office

22. The term of office of members is four years (Council resolution 591 (XX)).

Reporting procedure

23. The Commission reports directly to the Council. Its report is presented as a supplement to the Official Records of the Economic and Social Council.

Frequency of meetings

24. The Commission meets biennially (Council resolution 557 C (XVIII), sect. IV).

3. Commission for Social Development

Terms of reference

25. The Social Commission was established by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 10 (II) of 21 June 1946. As a result of a comprehensive reappraisal of the role of the Commission, the Council, in resolution 1139 (XLI) of 29 July 1966, renamed it the Commission for Social Development in order to clarify its role as a preparatory body of the Council in the whole range of social development policy.

26. In accordance with Council resolutions 10 (II) and 1139 (XLI), the terms of reference of the Commission are:

(a) To advise the Council on social questions of a general character and give particular attention to policies designed to promote social progress, to the establishment of social objectives and programme priorities and social research in areas affecting social and economic development;

(b) To advise the Council on practical measures that may be needed in the social field, including questions of social welfare, community development, urbanization, housing and social defence;

(c) To advise the Council on measures needed for the coordination of activities in the social field and for the recording and exchange of experience among Governments in the formulation and execution of social development policies;

(d) To advise the Council on such international agreements and conventions on any of these matters, as may be required, and on their execution;

(e) To report to the Council on the extent to which the recommendations of the United Nations in the field of social policy are being carried out;

(f) To advise the Council also on vital social problems in respect of which action or recommendations may be required either by the Council itself or by the General Assembly in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2035 (XX).

Membership and composition

27. The Commission consists of one representative from each of 32 Member States elected by the Council on the basis of an equitable geographical distribution, according to the following pattern:

(a) Eight members from African States;

(b) Six members from Asian States;

(c) Six members from Latin American and Caribbean States;

(d) Eight members from Western European and other States;

(e) Four members from Eastern European States.

In accordance with Council resolution 1139 (XLI), section IV, paragraph 1, the Member States elected to the Commission should nominate candidates who hold key positions in the planning or execution of national social development policies or other persons qualified to discuss the formulation of social policies in more than one sector of development. With a view to securing a balanced representation in the various fields covered by the Commission, the Secretary-General consults with the Governments selected before the representatives are finally nominated by these Governments and confirmed by the Council.

Term of office

28. The term of office of members is four years (Council decision taken at its 1651st meeting, on 12 January 1970).

Reporting procedure

29. The Commission reports directly to the Council. Its report is presented as a supplement to the Official Records of the Economic and Social Council.

Frequency of meetings

30. The Commission meets biennially (Council resolution 1768 (LIV)).

4. Commission on Human Rights

Terms of reference

31. The Commission on Human Rights was established by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 5 (I) of 16 February 1946. By that resolution, as amended by Council resolution 9 (II) of 21 June 1946, the Commission was directed towards submitting proposals, recommendations and reports to the Council regarding an international bill of rights; international declarations or conventions on civil liberties, the status of women, freedom of information and similar matters; the protection of minorities; the prevention of discrimination on grounds of race, sex, language or religion; and any other matter concerning human rights.

32. The Commission shall also "make studies and recommendations and provide information and other services at the request of the Economic and Social Council" (Council resolution 5 (I), sect. A, para. 3).

33. By resolution 1979/36 of 10 May 1979, the Council added the following provisions to the terms of reference of the Commission:

> "The Commission shall assist the Economic and Social Council in the coordination of activities concerning human rights in the United Nations system."

Membership and composition

34. In accordance with Council resolution 1990/48 of 25 May 1990, the Commission on Human Rights consists of one representative from each of 53 Member States elected by the Council on the basis of an equitable geographical distribution, according to the following pattern:

(a) Fifteen members from African States;

(b) Twelve members from Asian States;

(c) Eleven members from Latin American and Caribbean States;

(d) Ten members from Western European and other States;

(e) Five members from Eastern European States.

With a view to securing a balanced representation in the various fields covered by the Commission, the Secretary-General consults with the Governments thus elected before the representatives are finally nominated by those Governments and confirmed by the Council.

Term of office

35. The term of office of members is three years (Council resolution 9 (II), para. 2 (c)).

Reporting procedure

36. The Commission reports directly to the Council. Its report is presented as a supplement to the Official Records of the Economic and Social Council.

Frequency of meetings

37. The Commission meets annually (Council resolution 557 C (XVIII), sect. IV).

Subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Human Rights

(a) The Group of Three established under the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid

38. Article IX of the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid (General Assembly resolution 3068 (XXVIII), annex, of 30 November 1973) provides that the Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights should appoint a group consisting of three members of the Commission, who are also representatives of States Parties to the Convention, to consider reports submitted by States Parties in accordance with article VII of the Convention. The Group may meet for a period of not more than five days, either before the opening or after the closing of the session of the Commission, to consider the reports submitted in accordance with article VII. The Group reports to the Commission.

(b) Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts on Southern Africa

39. The terms of reference of the Ad Hoc Working Group are contained in Commission resolution 2 (XXIII) of 6 March 1967 and in the subsequent resolutions, the latest of which is Commission resolution 1991/21 of 1 March 1991, by which the mandate of the Working Group was renewed for two years. In its decision 1991/237 of 31 May 1991, the Economic and Social Council approved the decision of the Commission. Under the current mandate, the Ad Hoc Working Group is to investigate and study the policies and practices which violate human rights in South Africa and, in cooperation with the Special Committee against Apartheid and other investigatory and monitoring bodies, and to continue to investigate cases of torture and ill-treatment of detainees and the deaths of detainees in South Africa.

40. Members, who serve as experts acting in their personal capacity, are elected by the Commission. At present, the Working Group has six members: two from African States, one from Asian States, one from Latin American and Caribbean States, one from Eastern European States and one from Western European and other States. The Ad Hoc Working Group reports to the Commission.

(c) Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances

41. The Working Group was created by the Commission in its resolution 20 (XXXVI) of 29 February 1980, by which it decided "to establish for a period of one year a working group consisting of five of its members, to serve as experts in their individual capacities, to examine questions relevant to enforced or involuntary disappearances of persons". Since then, the mandate and terms of reference have been renewed by the Commission each year and since 1985 for a period of two years. The most recent resolution reviewing the mandate of the Working Group is Commission resolution 1990/30. In its decision 1990/230 of 25 May 1990, the Economic and Social Council approved the decision of the Commission.

42. The Working Group consists of five members of the Commission, appointed in their personal capacity by the Chairman of the Commission. As at present constituted, the Working Group has one member each from African States, Asian States, Eastern European States, Latin American and Caribbean States and Western European and other States. The Working Group reports to the Commission.

(d) Working Group on Situations (which appear to reveal a consistent pattern of gross violations of human rights)

43. The Working Group on Situations was established by the Commission under the terms of Economic and Social Council resolution 1990/41 of 25 May 1990, which contains the terms of reference of the Working Group. It is to examine such particular situations as might be referred to the Commission by the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities and to make recommendations to the Commission on the course of action to take in respect of each particular situation.

44. The Working Group consists of five members of the Commission, serving in their personal capacities, due account being taken of considerations of geographical distribution. It includes one member each from Asian States, African States, Latin American and Caribbean States, Eastern European States and Western European and other States and reports to the Commission.

(e) Working Group on Arbitary Detention

45. The Working Group was established by the Commission in its resolution 1991/42 of 5 March 1991, by which the Commission decided "to create, for a three-year period, a working group composed of five independent experts, with the task of investigating cases of detention imposed arbitrarily or otherwise inconsistently with the relevant international standards set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights or in the relevant international legal instruments accepted by the States concerned". In its decision 1991/243 of 31 May 1991, the Economic and Social Council approved the Commission's decision. The Working Group is currently composed of five individual members from five different regional groups, and it reports to the Commission.

(f) Working Group of a draft declaration on the protection of all persons from enforced or involuntary disappearances

46. The Working Group was established by the Commission in its resolution 1991/41 of 5 March 1991 to consider the draft declaration submitted by the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, with a view to its adoption by the Commission at its forty-eighth (1992) session. In its resolution 1991/27 of 31 May 1991, the Economic and Social Council authorized an open-ended working group to meet for two weeks prior to the forty-eighth session of the Commission. As an open-ended working group, it is open to all participants in the work of the Commission and reports to the Commission.

(g) Working Group on the draft declaration on the rights of persons belonging to national, ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities

47. The Working Group was first established by the Commission on 8 February 1978 to consider a draft declaration on the topic and has been established at each session of the Commission since then. In its resolution 1991/61 of 6 March 1991, the Commission decided that the Group should meet for 20 fully-serviced meetings at the beginning of December 1991 to complete its second reading of the draft declaration with a view to submitting it to the Commission at its forty-eighth session. In its resolution 1991/30 of 31 May 1991, the Economic and Social Council authorized the holding of the meetings. The Working Group reports to the Commission.

(h) Working group on a draft declaration on the right and responsibility of individuals, groups and organizations of society to promote and protect universally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms

48. The working group was established by the Commission in its decision 1984/116 of 16 March 1984 with a mandate to draft such a declaration and has met annually since then. In its resolution 1991/31 of 31 May 1991, the Economic and Social Council authorized the working group to meet for two weeks prior to the forty-eighth session of the Commission. The working group is open to all participants in the work of the Commission and reports to the Commission.

(i) Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities

Terms of reference

49. The Subcommission was established by the Commission under the authority of Council resolution 9 (II). The following terms of reference were set out by the Commission at its first (E/259) and fifth sessions (E/1371) and in paragraph 1 of its resolution 17 (XXXVII) of 10 March 1981:

(a) To undertake studies and to make recommendations concerning the prevention of discrimination and the protection of minorities;

(b) To carry out the duties provided for under Council resolutions 1235 (XLII) of 6 June 1967 and 1503 (XLVIII) of 27 May 1970;

(c) To review developments in the field of slavery, through its working group, and to make recommendations to the Commission;

(d) To prepare reports for use by the Commission in its examination of questions of violations of human rights (Commission resolution 8 (XXIII));

(e) To bring to the attention of the Commission under resolution 8 (XXIII), any situation which it has reasonable cause to believe reveals a consistent pattern of gross violations of human rights;

(f) To perform any other functions which may be entrusted to it by the Economic and Social Council or the Commission.

Membership and composition

50. The membership of the Subcommission is 26. The members are elected by the Commission from nominations of experts made by Member States on the following basis (Economic and Social Council resolution 1334 (XLIV) of 31 May 1968 and decision 1978/21 of 5 May 1978):

(a) Seven members from African States;

(b) Five members from Asian States;

(c) Six members from Western European and other States;

(d) Five members from Latin American and Caribbean States;

(e) Three members from Eastern European States.

Term of office

51. The term of office of members is four years.

(j) Subsidiary bodies of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities

(i) Working Group on Communications

52. The Working Group was established by the Subcommission in its resolution 2 (XXIV) in pursuance of Council resolution 1503 (XLVIII). It is entrusted with the implementation of the procedures for dealing with communications relating to violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms established by the Council. The Working Group meets once a year immediately before the session of the Subcommission to consider all communications received under Council resolution 728 F (XXVIII) with a view to bringing to the attention of

the Subcommission those communications which appear to reveal a consistent pattern of gross and reliably attested violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms. The five members, who serve for one year, are selected by the Chairman of the Subcommission on the following geographical basis: one each from African, Asian, Latin American and Caribbean, Eastern European and Western European and other States.

(ii) Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery

53. The Working Group on Slavery was established by the Subcommission in its resolution 11 (XXVII) in pursuance of Council decisions 16 (LVI) and 17 (LVI) of 17 May 1974, and 1980/127 of 2 May 1980. It meets for not more than five working days prior to each session of the Subcommission, reviews developments in the field of slavery and the slave trade in all their practices and manifestations, including the slavery-like practices of apartheid and colonialism, the traffic in persons and the exploitation of the prostitution of others as they are defined in the Slavery Convention of 25 September 1926, the Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery of 30 April 1956 and the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others of 2 December 1949. The Working Group is composed of five members of the Subcommission appointed by the Chairman of the Subcommission as authorized by Council decision 17 (LVI) of 17 May 1974. One member is appointed from each on the following geographical basis: Africa, Asia, Latin American and Caribbean, Eastern Europe and Western Europe and other States.

(iii) Working Group on Indigenous Populations

54. The Working Group was established by the Subcommission pursuant to Council resolution 1982/34 of 7 May 1982. Its terms of reference are contained in Subcommission resolution 2 (XXIV) of 8 September 1981. The mandate requires the Working Group (a) to review developments pertaining to the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous populations, including information requested by the Secretary-General annually from Governments, specialized agencies, regional intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations in consultative status, particularly those of indigenous peoples, to analyse such materials, and to submit its conclusions to the Subcommission, bearing in mind the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Subcommission and (b) to give special attention to the evolution of standards concerning the rights of indigenous populations, taking account of both the similarities and the differences in the situations and aspirations of indigenous populations throughout the world. The Working Group consists of five members of the Subcommission on the following geographical basis: one each from African, Asian, Latin American and Caribbean, Eastern European and Western European and other States.

(iv) Working Group on the improvement of the work of the Subcommission

55. The terms of reference of the Working Group are contained in Subcommission decision 1989/104 of 30 August 1989. The mandate requires the Working Group to prepare an overview and an analysis of the suggestions and proposals which have been made in order to enable the Subcommission to better discharge its responsibilities in dealing with violations of human rights. At its forty-sixth session the Commission on Human Rights, by its resolution 1990/64 of 7 March 1990, further developed the mandate of that Working Group. The Working Group is open-ended and meets during the sessions of the Subcommission.

(v) Working Group on a draft declaration on freedom and non-discrimination in respect of the right of everyone to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country

56. By its decision 1990/123 of 31 August 1990, the Subcommission decided to establish a sessional open-ended working group with the view to continuing to work on the preparation of a revised version of the draft declaration on freedom and non-discrimination in respect of the right of everyone to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country. The Working Group is open-ended.

(vi) Working Group on Detention

57. The mandate of the Working Group is contained in Subcommission resolution 7 (XXVII) of 20 August 1974, by which it decided to review every year the situation concerning the rights of persons subjected to any form of detention or imprisonment. The Working Group is composed of five experts each nominated by the five regional groups.

5. Commission on the Status of Women

Terms of reference

58. The Commission on the Status of Women was established by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 11 (II) of 21 June 1946 to prepare recommendations and reports to the Council on promoting women's rights in political, economic, civil, social and educational fields and to make recommendations to the Council on urgent problems requiring immediate attention in the field of women's rights with the object of implementing the principle that men and women shall have equal rights, and to develop proposals to give effect to such recommendations. In its resolution 1987/22 of 26 May 1987, the Council decided to expand the terms of reference of the Commission to include the functions of promoting the objectives of equality, development and peace, monitoring the implementation of measures for the advancement of women, and reviewing and appraising progress made at the national, subregional, regional, sectoral and global levels.

Membership and composition

59. In accordance with Council resolution 1989/45 of 24 May 1989, the Commission consists of one representative from each of 45 Member States elected by the Council on the basis of equitable geographical distribution, according to the following pattern:

(a) Thirteen members from African States;

(b) Eleven members from Asian States;

(c) Nine members from Latin American and Caribbean States;

(d) Eight members from Western European and other States;

(e) Four members from Eastern European States.

With a view to securing a balanced representation in the various fields covered by the Commission, the Secretary-General consults with the Governments thus elected before the representatives are finally nominated by those Governments and confirmed by the Council.

Term of office

60. The term of office of members is four years (Council decision of 31 July 1970).

Reporting procedure

61. The Commission reports directly to the Council. Its report is presented as a supplement to the Official Records of the Economic and Social Council.

Frequency of meetings

62. The Commission meets annually to the year 2000, in pursuance of Council resolution 1987/21 of 26 May 1987.

6. Commission on Narcotic Drugs

Terms of reference

63. The Commission was established by the Council in its resolution 9 (I) of 16 February 1946, which laid down its terms of reference as follows:

"The Commission shall:

"(a) Assist the Council in exercising such powers of supervision over the application of international conventions and agreements dealing with narcotic drugs as may be assumed by or conferred on the Council;

"(b) Carry out such functions entrusted to the League of Nations Advisory Committee on Traffic in Opium and other Dangerous Drugs by the international conventions on narcotic drugs as the Council may find necessary to assume and continue;

"(c) Advise the Council on all matters pertaining to the control of narcotic drugs, and prepare such draft international conventions as may be necessary;

"(d) Consider what changes may be required in the existing machinery for the international control of narcotic drugs and submit proposals thereon to the Council;

"(e) Perform such other functions relating to narcotic drugs as the Council may direct."

64. In addition, the Commission is to perform the functions assigned to it in accordance with article 8 of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 30 March 1961, as amended by the Protocol of 25 March 1972, and with article 17 of the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 21 February 1971, and in article 21 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 19 December 1988.

65. In Council resolution 1991/38 of 21 June 1991, the Commission was also assigned the following functions, which will be effective from the date set for its 1992 session:

"(a) To review the implementation of the Global Programme of Action annexed to General Assembly resolution S-17/2 of 23 February 1990, in accordance with paragraph 97 of the Global Programme of Action and General Assembly resolution 45/148 of 18 December 1990;

"(b) To review the development and implementation of the United Nations System-Wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control;

"(c) To give policy guidance to the new United Nations International Drug Control Programme, based at Vienna, and to monitor its activities".

Membership and composition

66. The membership of the Commission was increased to 53 by the Council in its resolution 1991/49 of 21 June 1991, with the following distribution of seats among the regional groups:

(a) Eleven for African States;

(b) Eleven for Asian States;

(c) Ten for Latin American and Caribbean States;

(d) Six for Eastern European States;

(e) Fourteen for Western European and other States;

(f) One seat to rotate between the Asian States and the Latin American and Caribbean States every four years.

67. In accordance with Council resolutions 845 (XXXII), section II, and 1147 (XLI), members are elected (a) from among the States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies and the Parties to the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961; (b) with due regard to the adequate representation of countries which are important producers of opium or coca leaves, of countries which are important in the field of the manufacture of narcotic drugs, and of countries in which drug addiction or the illicit traffic in narcotic drugs constitutes an important problem; and (c) taking into account the principle of equitable geographical distribution.

Term of office

68. The term of office of members is four years (Council resolution 1156 (XLI), sect. II).

Reporting procedure

69. The Commission reports directly to the Council. Its report is presented as a supplement to the Official Records of the Economic and Social Council.

Frequency of meetings

70. In accordance with Council resolution 1991/39 of 21 June 1991, the Commission meets annually.

Subsidiary organs of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs

(a) Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East

71. The Subcommission was established by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in its resolution 6 (XXV). The Council, in resolution 1776 (LIV) of 18 May 1973, authorized the establishment of the Subcommission.

72. The functions of the Subcommission are to coordinate regional activities directed against illicit drug traffic and to formulate recommendations to the Commission.

73. The members are Afghanistan, Bahrain, Egypt, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Sweden, the Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen. States from outside the region may attend as observers. Competent

international organizations as well as other United Nations bodies may be invited. The Subcommission reports directly to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and meets biannually.

(b) Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies

74. The function of these meetings is to coordinate activities directed against illicit drug traffic within the respective regions. Meetings are held annually and reports and recommendations are submitted to the Commission.

(i) Asia and Pacific region (Council resolutions 1985/11 and 1988/15)

75. Membership is open to any country in the ESCAP region. Interested Governments outside the region may be invited by the Secretary-General to send an observer at their own expense.

(ii) African region (Council resolutions 1985/11 and 1988/15)

76. Membership is open to States in the African region. Interested Governments outside the region may be invited by the Secretary-General to send an observer at their own expense.

(iii) Latin American and Caribbean region (Council resolutions 1987/34 and 1988/15)

77. Membership is open to Latin American and Caribbean countries and other interested Governments.

(iv) European region (Council resolution 1990/30)

78. Membership is open to Governments of the European region, as well as other interested Governments.

B. Regional commissions

1. Economic Commission for Africa

Terms of reference

79. The Economic Commission for Africa was established by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 671 A (XXV) of 29 April 1958, which set forth the following terms of reference:

> "The Economic Commission for Africa, acting within the framework of the policies of the United Nations and subject to the general supervision of the Economic and Social Council, shall, provided that the Commission takes no action with respect to any country without the agreement of the Government of that country:

"(a) Initiate and participate in measures for facilitating concerted action for the economic development of Africa, including its social aspects, with a view to raising the level of economic activity and levels of living in Africa, and for maintaining and strengthening the economic relations of countries and territories of Africa, both among themselves and with other countries of the world;

"(b) Make or sponsor such investigations and studies of economic and technological problems and developments within the territories of Africa as the Commission deems appropriate, and disseminate the results of such investigation and studies;

"(c) Undertake or sponsor the collection, evaluation and dissemination of such economic, technological and statistical information as the Commission deems appropriate;

"(d) Perform, within the available resources of its secretariat, such advisory services as the countries and territories of the region may desire, provided that such services do not overlap with those rendered by other bodies of the United Nations or by the specialized agencies;

"(e) Assist the Council at its request in discharging its functions within the region in connection with any economic problems, including problems in the field of technical assistance;

"(f) Assist in the formulation and development of co-ordinated policies as a basis for practical action in promoting economic and technological development in the region;

"(g) In carrying out the above functions, deal as appropriate with the social aspects of economic development and the interrelationship of economic and social factors."

Membership and composition

80. In accordance with Council resolution 974 D (XXXVI), section III, which amended the terms of reference of the Commission in regard to its membership, membership of the Commission is open to Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, the Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gabon, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, the Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, the Sudan, Swaziland, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zaire, Zambia and Zimbabwe and to any State in the area which may become a Member of the United Nations.

81. Associate members of the Commission are the Non-Self-Governing Territories in Africa (including African islands). Switzerland participates in a consultative capacity in the work of the Commission by virtue of Council resolution 925 (XXXIV) of 6 July 1962.

82. The Council, in resolution 1950 (LIX) of 22 July 1975, decided that "the Commission shall invite any national liberation movement recognized by the Organization of African Unity to send observers to participate in its consideration of any matter of interest to that movement. Such observers shall have the right to submit proposals, which may be voted upon at the request of any member of the Commission. The Commission shall defray all travel and other related expenses of representatives of the national liberation movements invited to attend such proceedings."

83. The Commission has at present 51 members, as listed above. 2/

Subsidiary bodies

84. The Council, in paragraph 3 of resolution 671 A (XXV), decided that the Commission might, after discussion with any specialized agency functioning in the same general field, and with the approval of the Council, establish such subsidiary bodies as it deemed appropriate, for facilitating the carrying out of its responsibilities.

85. The Commission has at present the following subsidiary bodies:

1. ECA exclusive legislative organs

(a) Conference of Ministers;

(b) Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole;

(c) Conference of Ministers of African Least-Developed Countries;

(d) Group of Experts of the Conference of Ministers of African Least-Developed Countries;

2. ECA exclusive regional and sectoral bodies

(a) Intergovernmental Committees of Experts of the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres (MULPOCs), five of them - one for North Africa, headquarters Tangiers, Morocco, one for West

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2/ The Council decided by resolution 974 D (XXXVI), sect. IV, of 30 July 1965, that the Republic of South Africa should not take part in the work of the Commission until the Council, on the recommendation of the Commission, should find that conditions for constructive cooperation had been restored thanks to a change in the racial policies of that country.

Africa, headquarters Niamey, Niger, one for Central Africa, headquarters Yaoundé, Cameroon, one for Central Africa, headquarters Gisenyi, Rwanda, and one for Eastern and Southern Africa, headquarters Lusaka, Zambia;

(b) Conference of African Ministers of Finance;

(c) Group of Experts of the Conference of African Ministers of Finance;

(d) African Regional Coordinating Committee for the Integration of Women in Development;

(e) Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning;

(f) Group of Experts of the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning;

(g) Technical Committee for Pan-African Development Information System;

(h) Conference of African Ministers responsible for Human Resources Utilization, Planning and Development;

(i) Group of Experts of the Conference of African Ministers responsible for Human Resources Utilization, Planning and Development;

(j) Follow-up Committee of Ten of the Conference of Ministers responsible for Human Resources Utilization, Planning and Development;

(k) Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers;

(l) Intergovernmental Regional Committee on Human Settlements and Environment;

(m) Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Science and Technology for Development;

(n) Regional Conference for Development and Utilization of Mineral Resources in Africa;

(o) Group of Experts of the Regional Conference for Development and Utilization of Mineral Resources in Africa;

3. Sectoral bodies serviced by ECA and other organizations

(a) Conference of African Ministers of Social Affairs;

(b) Group of Experts of the Conference of African Ministers of Social Affairs;

(c) Conference of African Ministers of Trade;

(d) Group of Experts of the Conference of African Ministers of Trade;

(e) Conference of African Ministers of Industry;

(f) Group of Experts of the Conference of African Ministers of Industry;

(g) Conference of African Ministers of Tourism;

(h) Group of Experts of the Conference of African Ministers of Tourism;

(i) Conference of African Ministers of Environment;

(j) Group of Experts of the Conference of African Ministers of Environment;

(k) Conference of Vice-Chancellors, Presidents and Rectors of Institutions of Higher Learning in Africa; and

(l) Intergovernmental Committee of the Nile Basin.

Reporting procedure

86. The Commission reports directly to the Council (Council resolution 671 A (XXV), para. 18), and its report is presented as a supplement to the Official Records of the Economic and Social Council.

Frequency of meetings

87. The Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole meets annually prior to the session of the Commission itself. The meeting of the Conference of Ministers of ECA and the Commission session are held annually and concurrently.

2. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Terms of reference

88. The Commission was provisionally established by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 37 (IV) of 28 March 1947 as the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East. The Council, in resolution 414 (XIII), section C.I, of 18, 19 and 20 September 1951, decided to continue the Commission indefinitely. The Council, in resolution 1895 (LVII) of 1 August 1974, decided to change the name to "Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific".

89. The terms of reference of the Commission as set out in Council resolution 37 (IV), which have been amended by the Council at subsequent sessions and revised in consequence of various General Assembly resolutions on the admission of new members, are as follows:

The Commission, acting within the framework of the policies of the United Nations and subject to the general supervision of the Council shall, provided the Commission takes no action in respect of any country without the agreement of the Government of that country:

(a) Initiate and participate in measures for facilitating concerted action for the economic reconstruction and development of Asia and the Pacific, for raising the level of economic activity in Asia and the Pacific and for maintaining and strengthening the economic relations of these areas both among themselves and with other countries of the world;

(b) Make or sponsor such investigations and studies of economic and technological problems and developments within territories of Asia and the Pacific as the Commission deems appropriate;

(c) Undertake or sponsor the collection, evaluation and dissemination of such economic, technological and statistical information as the Commission deems appropriate;

(d) Perform such advisory services, within the available resources of its secretariat, as the countries of the region may desire, provided that such services do not overlap with those rendered by the specialized agencies or the United Nations Technical Assistance Administration;

(e) Assist the Economic and Social Council, at its request, in discharging its functions within the region in connection with any economic problems, including problems in the field of technical assistance;

(f) In carrying out the above functions, deal, as appropriate, with the social aspects of economic development and the interrelationship of the economic and social factors.

Membership and composition

90. The Commission has at present 39 members, of which 5 are not within its geographical scope, and 10 associate members. The members are Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Fiji, France, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Kiribati, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nauru, Nepal, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Samoa, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Tonga, Tuvalu, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Vanuatu, and Viet Nam. Any State in the area which may hereafter become a Member of the United Nations shall be thereupon admitted as a member of the Commission. The associate members are the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, Hong Kong, Macau, Niue, Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Republic of Palau and the Territory of American Samoa.

Subsidiary bodies

91. The Council, in resolution 69 (V) of 31 July 1947, decided that the Commission might, after discussion with any specialized agency functioning in the same general field, and with the approval of the Council, establish such subsidiary bodies as it deemed appropriate for facilitating the carrying out of its responsibilities.

92. The Commission, at its forty-sixth session, endorsed the proposal of the Executive Secretary that the secretariat, with the advice of a group of eminent persons, conduct an in-depth study on the intergovernmental structure subsidiary to the Commission. The study would examine the existing intergovernmental structure and suggest changes, or even a new structure if it considered that necessary, in order to maximize the efficiency and effective operation of the Commission.

93. The Commission, at its forty-seventh session, having examined the recommendations of the group of eminent persons, adopted a resolution entitled "Restructuring the intergovernmental structure subsidiary to the Commission", in which, inter alia, it agreed in principle to set up three thematic committees on regional economic cooperation, on the environment and sustainable development and on poverty alleviation and economic growth. The Commission also requested the Executive Secretary to convene before the end of 1991 a meeting of senior officials to consider and finalize the detailed recommendations to encompass the terms of reference, operational modalities, frequency of meetings and other relevant aspects of the revised subsidiary structure of the Commission on the basis of the report of the group of eminent persons.

Reporting procedure

94. The Commission reports directly to the Council, and its report is presented as a supplement to the Official Records of the Economic and Social Council.

Frequency of meetings

95. In accordance with Council resolution 1768 (LIV), the Commission meets annually.

3. Economic Commission for Europe

Terms of reference

96. The Economic Commission for Europe was established and given the following terms of reference by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 36 (IV) of 28 March 1947, as amended by Council resolution 414 (XIII), sect. C.I, and subsequent resolutions:

The Commission, acting within the framework of the policies of the United Nations and subject to the general supervision of the Council shall, provided that the Commission takes no action in respect to any country without the agreement of the Government of that country:

(a) Initiate and participate in measures for facilitating concerted action for the economic reconstruction of Europe, for raising the level of European economic activity, and for maintaining and strengthening the economic relations of the European countries both among themselves and with other countries of the world;

(b) Make or sponsor such investigations and studies of economic and technological problems of and developments within member countries of the Commission and within Europe generally as the Commission deems appropriate;

(c) Undertake or sponsor the collection, evaluation and dissemination of such economic, technological and statistical information as the Commission deems appropriate.

Membership and composition

97. The Commission has at present the following 38 members: Albania, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Cyprus, Czech and Slovak Federal Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Yugoslavia.

Subsidiary bodies

98. The Council, in paragraph 5 of section A of its resolution 36 (IV), decided that the Commission might, after discussion with any specialized agency functioning in the same general field and with the approval of the Council, establish such subsidiary bodies as it deemed appropriate for facilitating the carrying out of its responsibilities.

99. At its forty-second, forty-fourth and forty-fifth sessions (1987, 1989 and 1990), the Commission carried out in-depth reviews of its structures and functions (decisions A (1987-S), A (45) and O (45)). The reviews led to the definition of environment, transport, statistics, trade facilitation and economic analysis as priority areas of activity, a reduction of the Commission's subsidiary bodies from 107 in 1987 to the present 48, and a more flexible approach to the Commission's activities, including the greater use of informal meetings. The basic structure consists of 10 Principal Subsidiary Bodies listed below in the order in which they appear in the ECE programme of work. It also includes four Working Parties in the Industry sector which, in the absence of a Principal Subsidiary Body, report directly to the Commission. The others include working parties which report to the Principal Subsidiary Bodies.

(a) Senior Economic Advisers to ECE Governments;

(b) Committee on Agriculture;

(c) Timber Committee;

(d) Senior Advisers to ECE Governments on Environmental and Water Problems;

(e) Committee on Human Settlements;

(f) Committee on the Development of Trade;

(g) Committee on Energy;

(h) Senior Advisers to ECE Governments on Science and Technology;

(i) Inland Transport Committee;

(j) Conference of European Statisticians.

Industry

(a) Working Party on the Chemical Industry;

(b) Working Party on Engineering Industries and Automation;

(c) Working Party on Standardization Policies;

(d) Working Party on Steel.

Reporting procedure

100. The Commission reports directly to the Council (Council resolution 36 (IV), para. 6), and its report is presented as a supplement to the Official Records of the Economic and Social Council.

Frequency of meetings

101. In accordance with Council resolution 1768 (LIV), the Commission meets annually.

4. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

Terms of reference

102. The Economic Commission for Latin America was established by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 106 (VI) of 25 February and 5 March 1948. In its resolution 1984/67 of 27 July 1984, the Council decided to change the

name of the Commission to the present one. The following terms of reference were set out in Council resolutions 106 (VI), 234 (IX) of 12 August 1949, 414 (XIII), section C.I, of 18, 19 and 20 September 1951, and 723 C (XXVIII) of 17 July 1959, and Council decision adopted at the forty-seventh session of 31 July 1969:

> The Commission, acting within the framework of the policies of the United Nations and subject to the general supervision of the Council, shall, provided that the Commission takes no action with respect to any country without the agreement of the Government of that country:
>
> (a) Initiate and participate in measures for facilitating concerted action for dealing with urgent economic problems and for raising the level of economic activity in Latin America and the Caribbean and for maintaining and strengthening the economic relations of the Latin American and Caribbean countries both among themselves and with other countries of the world;
>
> (b) Make or sponsor such investigations and studies of economic and technological problems and developments within territories of Latin America and the Caribbean as the Commission deems appropriate;
>
> (c) Undertake or sponsor the collection, evaluation and dissemination of such economic, technological and statistical information as the Commission deems appropriate;
>
> (d) Give special attention in its activities to the problems of economic development and assist in the formulation and development of coordinated policies as a basis for practical action in promoting economic development in the region;
>
> (e) Assist the Council in discharging its functions with respect to the United Nations technical assistance programme, in particular by assisting in their appraisal of these activities in the Latin American and Caribbean region;
>
> (f) In carrying out the above functions, deal as appropriate with the social aspects of economic development and the interrelationship of the economic and social factors.
>
> The Commission shall direct its activities especially towards the study and seeking of solutions of problems arising in Latin America and the Caribbean from world economic maladjustment and towards other problems connected with the world economy, with a view to the cooperation of the Latin American and Caribbean countries in the common effort to achieve world-wide recovery and economic stability.

Membership and composition

103. The Commission has at present 41 members and 6 associate members. The members are Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Italy, Jamaica, Mexico, the Netherlands, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Spain, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Uruguay and Venezuela.

104. The associate members are Aruba, the British Virgin Islands, Montserrat, the Netherlands Antilles, Puerto Rico and the United States Virgin Islands. Germany and Switzerland participate in a consultative capacity in the work of the Commission by virtue of Council resolution 632 (XXII) of 13 December 1956 and 861 (XXXII) of 21 December 1961, respectively.

Subsidiary bodies

105. The Council, in paragraph 10 of its resolution 106 (VI), decided that the Commission might, after discussion with any specialized agency concerned, and with the approval of the Council, establish such subsidiary bodies as it deemed appropriate, for facilitating the carrying out of its responsibilities.

106. At present, the Commission has the following subsidiary bodies:

(a) Central American Economic Cooperation Committee, with subcommittees on trade; statistical coordination; transport; housing, building and planning; electric power and industrial initiatives; and agricultural development;

(b) Technical Committee of the Latin American Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES);

(c) Committee of High-level Government Experts;

(d) Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee.

Reporting procedure

107. The Commission reports directly to the Council (Council resolution 106 (VI), para. 12), and its report is presented as a supplement to the Official Records of the Economic and Social Council in even years.

Frequency of meetings

108. The Commission itself meets biennially, in even years, and in odd years the Committee of the Whole holds its session.

5. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

Terms of reference

109. The Commission was established by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1818 (LV) of 9 August 1973 as the Economic Commission for Western Asia. In its resolution 1985/69 of 26 July 1985, the Council changed the name of the Commission to the current one. Its terms of reference, in Council resolution 1818 (LV), as subsequently amended, are as follows:

> The Commission, acting within the framework of the policies of the United Nations and subject to the general supervision of the Economic and Social Council, shall, provided that the Commission takes no action with respect of any country without the agreement of the Government of that country:
>
> (a) Initiate and participate in measures for facilitating concerted action for the economic reconstruction and development of Western Asia, for raising the level of economic activity in Western Asia and for maintaining and strengthening the economic relations of the countries of that area both among themselves and with other countries of the world;
>
> (b) Make or sponsor such investigations and studies of economic and technological problems and developments within the territories of Western Asia as the Commission deems appropriate;
>
> (c) Undertake or sponsor the collection, evaluation and dissemination of such economic, technological and statistical information as the Commission deems appropriate;
>
> (d) Perform such advisory services, within the available resources of its secretariat, as the countries of the region may desire, provided that such services do not overlap with those rendered by the specialized agencies or the United Nations Development Programme;
>
> (e) Assist the Council, at its request, in discharging its functions within the region in connection with any economic problems, including problems in the field of technical assistance;
>
> (f) In carrying out the above functions, deal, as appropriate, with the social aspects of economic development and the interrelationship of the economic and social factors.

Membership and composition

110. The present members are Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the Syrian Arab Republic, the United Arab Emirates, Yemen and Palestine.

Subsidiary bodies

111. The Commission has at present a standing committee of its member States for the purpose of giving advice on arrangements for the sessions of the Commission and meetings organized under the Commission's auspices as well as on other matters.

Reporting procedure

112. The Commission reports directly to the Council (Council resolution 1818 (LV), para. 12). Its report is presented as a supplement to the Official Records of the Economic and Social Council.

Frequency of meetings

113. In accordance with Commission resolution 158 (XIV) of 5 April 1987, the Commission meets biennially. The sixteenth session, originally scheduled for 1991, will be held in 1992 pursuant to Council decision 1991/207 of 7 February 1991.

C. Standing committees

1. Committee for Programme and Coordination

Terms of reference

114. The Committee for Programme and Coordination was first established under the name "Special Committee on Coordination" by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 920 (XXXIV) of 3 August 1962. It was renamed "Committee for Programme and Coordination" by the Council in its resolution 1171 (XLI) of 5 August 1966, "to reflect better its dual responsibilities". The Committee's original terms of reference were outlined in those resolutions. In its resolution 31/93 of 14 December 1976, the General Assembly decided "that the Committee for Programme and Coordination shall function as the main subsidiary organ of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly for planning, programming and coordination" and approved the consolidated terms of reference as set out in the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution 2008 (LX) of 14 May 1976. The terms of reference are as follows:

"A. Functions

"1. The Committee shall function as the main subsidiary organ of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly for planning, programming and coordination.

"2. In particular, the Committee shall:

"(a) Review the programmes of the United Nations as defined in the medium-term plan. In performing this function, the Committee shall:

"(i) Review the medium-term plan in the off-budget years and the programme budget in budget years;

"In reviewing the medium-term plan, the Committee shall examine, in the light of its budgetary implications, the totality of the Secretary-General's work programme, giving particular attention to programme changes arising out of decisions adopted by intergovernmental organs and conferences or suggested by the Secretary-General;

"The Committee shall concern itself with medium-term plans formulated for the organizational units involved in each programme of the United Nations and assess the results achieved from current activities, the continuing validity of legislative decisions of more than five years' standing, and the effectiveness of coordination with other units of the Secretariat and members of the United Nations family;

"(ii) Recommend an order of priorities among United Nations programmes as defined in the medium-term plan;

"(iii) Give guidance to the Secretariat on programme design by interpreting legislative intent so as to assist it in translating legislation into programmes. In this connection, the memoranda on the implementation of resolutions, prepared by the Secretariat after each session of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, shall be made available to the Committee, which, in the periods immediately following the sessions of those bodies, shall cooperate with the Secretariat departments concerned in integrating the new legislation into continuing programmes;

"(iv) Consider and develop evaluation procedures and their use in the improvement of programme design;

"(v) Make recommendations with respect to work programmes proposed by the Secretariat to give effect to the legislative intent of the relevant policy-making organs, taking into account the need to avoid overlapping and duplication;

"(b) Assist the Economic and Social Council in the performance of its coordination functions within the United Nations system.

"3. In discharging those responsibilities, the Committee shall:

"(a) Consider on a sector-by-sector basis the activities and programmes of the agencies of the United Nations system in order to enable the Council effectively to perform its functions as coordinator of the system and ensure that the work programmes of the United Nations and its agencies shall be compatible and mutually complementary;

"(b) Recommend guidelines for the agencies of the United Nations system on their programmes and activities, taking into account their respective functions and responsibilities and the need for coherence and coordination throughout the system;

"(c) Undertake from time to time, upon the recommendation of the General Assembly or the Economic and Social Council, a review and appraisal of the implementation of important legislative decisions, so as to determine the degree of coordinated effort undertaken throughout the United Nations system in certain priority fields designated as such by legislative bodies. The Committee shall perform this work, both independently and in consultation with the Administrative Committee on Coordination, and shall be required to report on the results of its review to the legislative body that requested that it be undertaken;

"(d) The Committee shall study the reports of the Administrative Committee on Coordination, appropriate reports of United Nations organs, the annual reports of the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency and other relevant documents.

"B. Relationships with the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the Joint Inspection Unit

"4. The Committee shall establish useful cooperation with the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.

"5. The members of the Joint Inspection Unit shall be free to participate in meetings of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and arrangements shall be made for periodic joint consultations. The Joint Inspection Unit shall also bring to the attention of the Committee any problem which it may consider important within the scope of the Committee's responsibilities.

"6. The reports of the Joint Inspection Unit concerning the economic, social and human rights programmes of the United Nations system, including the reports dealing with the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, shall be examined by the Committee for Programme and Coordination, which shall report thereon to the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly. In its review, the Committee shall take account of any comments which the Secretary-General and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions may wish to make on these reports."

115. Pursuant to the report of the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts to Review the Efficiency of the Administrative and Financial Functioning of the United Nations, 3/ the General Assembly, in section II of its resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986, called for improvement of the representation in the Committee in conformity with the provisions of paragraph 46 of the annex to Assembly resolution 32/197 of 20 December 1977. Annex I to resolution 41/213, which is entitled "Budget process", provides that, in off-budget years, "the Committee for Programme and Coordination, acting as a subsidiary organ of the General Assembly, shall consider the outline and submit, through the Fifth Committee, to the General Assembly its conclusions and recommendations" and that, in budget years, "the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions shall examine the proposed programme budget in accordance with their respective mandates and submit their conclusions and recommendations to the General Assembly, through the Fifth Committee, for the final approval of the programme budget".

Membership and composition

116. In accordance with Assembly decision 42/450 of 17 December 1987, the Committee consists of 34 Member States nominated by the Economic and Social Council and elected by the Assembly on the basis of equitable geographical distribution, as follows:

(a) Nine seats for African States;

(b) Seven seats for Asian States;

(c) Seven seats for Latin American and Caribbean States;

(d) Seven seats for Western European and other States;

(e) Four seats for Eastern European States.

Term of office

117. The term of office of members is three years (Council resolution 2008 (LX), annex, para. 7).

Reporting procedure

118. The Committee reports to the Assembly and the Council, as it is a subsidiary body of both. Its reports are presented as supplements to the Official Records of the General Assembly.

3/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-first Session, Supplement No. 49 (A/41/49).

Frequency of meetings

119. The annex to Council resolution 2008 (LX) stipulates that "the Committee shall meet for six weeks in (medium-term) plan years [even-numbered years] and for four weeks in budget years" [odd-numbered years]. In off-budget years, the session is split into two parts.

2. Committee on Natural Resources

Terms of reference

120. The Committee on Natural Resources was established by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1535 (XLIX) of 27 July 1970, which also sets out the terms of reference of the Committee.

121. According to paragraph 4 of that resolution, the Committee is responsible for:

> "(a) Assistance to the Council in providing guidance in the programming and implementation of activities in the United Nations system for the development of natural resources, particularly with regard to the development of water, energy and mineral resources, keeping in mind requirements for planning for the Second United Nations Development Decade and for the protection of the human environment, and new technological developments in the field of natural resources;
>
> "(b) The establishment of guidelines for the provision and for the improvement and strengthening of advisory services to the Governments of Member States, to be made available at their request, for the planning, development and utilization of their natural resources within the framework of their overall development plans;
>
> "(c) The substantive review and reformulation of the survey programme as originally planned;
>
> "(d) The analysis of existing resolutions in the field of natural resources, with a view to recommending the consolidation and streamlining of their legislative basis;
>
> "(e) The selection and follow-up of priority questions concerning long-term problems and trends of world-wide significance in the field of natural resources;
>
> "(f) The examination of reports concerning operational and research activities in connection with natural resources, including reports from relevant panels and seminars already in the programme and from such as may develop;
>
> "(g) Appropriate attention to the problems of research promotion and of the exchange and dissemination of experience and information in the fields of the development, utilization and conservation of natural resources;
>
> "(h) Recommendations to the Economic and Social Council and, through the Council, to Governments and also to other bodies, such as the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme, on

appropriate priorities, programme emphasis and other relevant matters concerning the exploration and exploitation of natural resources;

"(i) Assistance to the Council and the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination in maintaining the necessary liaison between the activities in the field of natural resources of the regional economic commissions, the specialized agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency and other bodies doing relevant work, with a view to ensuring the utmost efficiency and co-operation;

"(j) Such other relevant functions as the Council may assign to the Committee from time to time".

Membership and composition

122. The Committee has 54 members (Council resolution 1621 A (LI)) who are elected by the Council on the basis of the pattern of the membership of the Council as set out in General Assembly resolution 2847 (XXVI), namely:

(a) Fourteen members from African States;

(b) Eleven members from Asian States;

(c) Ten members from Latin American and Caribbean States;

(d) Thirteen members from Western European and other States;

(e) Six members from Eastern European States.

The representatives of States members on the Committee are to be, as far as possible, experts in the field of natural resources.

Term of office

123. The term of office of members is four years (ibid., para. 3).

Reporting procedure

124. The Committee reports directly to the Council (ibid., para. 5). The report is presented as a supplement to the Official Records of the Economic and Social Council.

Frequency of meetings

125. The Committee meets biennially (Council resolution 1768 (LIV)).

3. Commission on Transnational Corporations

Terms of reference

126. The Commission on Transnational Corporations was established by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1913 (LVII) of 5 December 1974, which also contains terms of reference of the Commission.

127. According to paragraph 3 of the resolution, the Commission is to assist the Council by:

> "(a) Acting as the forum within the United Nations system for the comprehensive and in-depth consideration of issues relating to transnational corporations;
>
> "(b) Promoting the exchange of views among Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, trade unions, business, consumers and other relevant groups through the arrangements, inter alia, of hearings and interviews;
>
> "(c) Providing guidance to the Information and Research Centre on Transnational Corporations ... on the rendering of advisory services to interested Governments and promoting programmes of technical co-operation;
>
> "(d) Conducting inquiries on the activities of transnational corporations, making studies, preparing reports and organizing panels for facilitating discussions among relevant groups;
>
> "(e) Undertaking work which may assist the Economic and Social Council in evolving a set of recommendations which, taken together, would represent the basis for a code of conduct dealing with transnational corporations;
>
> "(f) Undertaking work which may assist the Economic and Social Council in considering possible arrangements or agreements on specific aspects relating to transnational corporations with a view to studying the feasibility of formulating a general agreement and, on the basis of a decision of the Council, to consolidating them into a general agreement at a future date;
>
> "(g) Recommending to the Economic and Social Council the priorities and the programmes of work on transnational corporations to be carried out by the Information and Research Centre on Transnational Corporations".

Membership and composition

128. The 48 members of the Commission are elected according to the following pattern (Council resolution 1913 (LVII)):

(a) Twelve members from African States;

(b) Eleven members from Asian States;

(c) Ten members from Latin American and Caribbean States;

(d) Ten members from Western European and other States;

(e) Five members from Eastern European States.

In accordance with paragraph 1 (d) of resolution 1913 (LVII), the Commission may select expert-advisers, who, in a private consultative capacity, are to assist the Commission and participate in its discussions.

Term of office

129. The term of office is three years (ibid., para. 1 (c)).

Reporting procedure

130. The Commission reports directly to the Council (ibid., para. 2). The report is presented as a supplement to the Official Records of the Economic and Social Council.

Frequency of meetings

131. The Commission meets annually (ibid.).

Subsidiary body of the Commission on Transnational Corporations

Intergovernmental Working Group on a Code of Conduct for Transnational Corporations

132. The Intergovernmental Working Group on a Code of Conduct for Transnational Corporations was established by the Commission at its second session (see E/5782, chap. I).

133. The Intergovernmental Working Group, which was to meet intersessionally with the participation of at least four members of the Commission from each regional group, was requested by the Commission to prepare an annotated outline of a code of conduct to be submitted to the Commission. It was further requested to take into account, in carrying out its work, the related work being undertaken by the United Nations bodies, in particular the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, regarding transfer of technology, restrictive business practices etc., and the International Labour Organisation, regarding employment questions. It should also bear in mind the related work undertaken by the non-aligned countries, the Organization of American States, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the European Community and other forums.

4. Commission on Human Settlements

Terms of reference

134. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 32/162 of 19 December 1977, the Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 1978/1 of 12 January 1978, decided to transform the Committee on Housing, Building and Planning (which had been established by the Council in its resolution 903 C (XXXIV) of 2 August 1962) into a Commission on Human Settlements.

135. Section II, paragraph 3, of General Assembly resolution 32/162 provides that the Commission will have the following main objectives:

> "(a) To assist countries and regions in increasing and improving their own efforts to solve human settlements problems;
>
> "(b) To promote greater international co-operation in order to increase the availability of resources of developing countries and regions;
>
> "(c) To promote the integral concept of human settlements and a comprehensive approach to human settlements problems in all countries;
>
> "(d) To strengthen co-operation and co-participation in this domain among all countries and regions".

136. The Assembly, in resolution 32/162, section II, paragraph 4, also decided that the Commission would have the following main functions and responsibilities:

> "(a) To develop and promote policy objectives, priorities and guidelines regarding existing and planned programmes of work in the field of human settlements, as formulated in the recommendations of Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements and subsequently endorsed by the General Assembly;
>
> "(b) To follow closely the activities of the organizations of the United Nations system and other international organizations in the field of human settlements and to propose, when appropriate, ways and means by which the overall policy objectives and goals in the field of human settlements within the United Nations system might best be achieved;
>
> "(c) To study, in the context of the recommendations for national action of Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, new issues, problems and especially solutions in the field of human settlements, particularly those of a regional or international character;
>
> "(d) To give overall policy guidance and carry out supervision of the operations of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation" (now an integral part of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat));

"(e) To review and approve periodically the utilization of funds at its disposal for carrying out human settlements activities at the global, regional and subregional levels;

"(f) To provide overall direction to the secretariat of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat);

"(g) To review and provide guidance on the programme of the United Nations Audio-Visual Information Centre on Human Settlements established by virtue of General Assembly resolution 31/115 of 16 December 1976" (also an integral part of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)).

Membership, composition and term of office

137. The Committee has 58 members elected by the Economic and Social Council for a four-year term on the following basis (Assembly resolutions 32/162, sect. II, para. 1 and 202 B, para. 3):

(a) Sixteen from African States;

(b) Thirteen from Asian States;

(c) Six from Eastern European States;

(d) Ten from Latin American and Caribbean States;

(e) Thirteen from Western European and other States.

Reporting procedure

138. The Commission reports to the General Assembly through the Council (ibid., para. 6). Its report is presented as a supplement to the Official Records of the General Assembly. The Commission submits its report on the implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 as an addendum to its report.

Frequency of meeting

139. The Commission meets biennially (Commission resolution 8/1 and Assembly resolution 40/202 B).

5. Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations

Terms of reference

140. The Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations was established by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 3 (II) of 21 June 1946. Its original terms of reference were set out in Council resolution 288 B (X) of

27 February 1950, which was superseded by resolution 1296 (XLIV) of 25 May 1968. The current terms of reference of the Committee are now set out in rules 80 to 84 of procedure of the Council (E/5715/Rev.1).

141. The Committee carries out the functions assigned to it by the Council in connection with the arrangements for consultations with non-governmental organizations adopted by the Council in accordance with Article 71 of the Charter of the United Nations. When considering applications for granting consultative status to non-governmental organizations, the Committee is guided by the rules of procedure of the Council.

142. The Committee consults, in connection with sessions of the Council or at such other times as it may decide, with organizations in categories I and II on matters within their competence, other than items on the agenda of the Council, on which the Council or the Committee or the organization requests consultation.

143. The Committee consults, in connection with any particular session of the Council, with organizations in categories I and II on matters within the competence of the organizations concerning specific items already on the provisional agenda of the Council on which the Council or the Committee or the organization requests consultation, and makes recommendations as to which organizations, subject to the provisions of paragraph 1 of rule 84 of the rules of procedure of the Council, should be heard by the Council or the appropriate committee and regarding which subjects they should be heard. The Committee reports to the Council on such consultations.

144. The Committee also makes recommendations to the Council as to which organizations in category I should be heard by the Council or by its sessional committees and on which items they should be heard. In the absence of the subsidiary body of the Council with jurisdiction in a major field of interest to the Council and to an organization in category II, the Committee may recommend that an organization in category II be heard by the Council on the subject of its field of interest.

Membership and composition

145. The Committee has 19 members (Council resolution 1981/50 of 20 July 1981) who are elected on the basis of equitable geographical representation. The membership of the Committee consists of:

(a) Five members from African States;

(b) Four members from Asian States;

(c) Two members from Eastern European States;

(d) Four members from Latin American and Caribbean States;

(e) Four members from Western European and other States.

Term of office

146. In accordance with Council decision 70 (ORG-75) of 28 January 1975, the term of office of members is four years.

Reporting procedure

147. The Committee reports directly to the Council (rule 82 of the rules of procedure of the Council).

Frequency of meetings

148. The Committee meets biennially (Council resolution 1768 (LIV)). It has a one-day meeting before each session of the Council to determine those non-governmental organizations which shall speak before the Council and the agenda items on which they will speak.

6. Committee on Negotiations with Intergovernmental Agencies

Terms of reference

149. The Committee on Negotiations with Intergovernmental Agencies was established by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 11 (I) of 16 February 1946 in order to carry out negotiations with intergovernmental agencies with a view to bringing them into relationship with the United Nations in accordance with Articles 57 and 63 of the Charter.

Membership and composition

150. The Council decides on the membership and composition of the Committee as and when it decides that this Committee should enter into negotiations with one or more intergovernmental agencies.

D. Expert bodies composed of governmental experts

1. Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods

Terms of reference

151. The Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 468 G (XV) of 15 April 1953, requested the Secretary-General to appoint a committee (subsequently the United Nations Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods) of not more than nine experts that was to make a study and present a report to the Transport and Communications Commission:

(a) Recommending and defining groupings or classification of dangerous goods on the basis of the character of risk involved;

(b) Listing the principal dangerous goods moving in commerce and assigning each to its proper grouping or classification;

(c) Recommending marks or labels for each grouping or classification, which shall identify the risk graphically and without regard to printed text;

(d) Recommending the simplest possible requirements for shipping papers covering dangerous goods.

152. That mandate was enlarged by the Council in its resolution 645 G (XXIII) of 26 April 1957, when the Committee was given the name Committee of Experts for Further Work on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and the problem of packing was added to its mandate.

153. In Council resolution 724 C (XXVIII) of 17 July 1959, the Committee was invited to continue the tasks previously assigned to it and to explore further "mutually acceptable performance tests for outer packages". The Council also requested the Secretary-General to set up and convene a group of three experts on explosives to list and harmonize the packing of explosives, and to inform the International Atomic Energy Agency of the desire of the Council that the Agency be entrusted with "the drafting of recommendations on the transport of radio-active substances". In resolution 994 (XXXVI) of 16 December 1963, the Council decided to change the name of the Committee to "Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods". At this period, the Secretary-General decided to transfer the responsibility for the secretariat of the Committee to the Economic Commission for Europe at Geneva.

154. The Council, in resolution 1488 (XLVIII) of 22 May 1970, decided "that the Group of Experts on Explosives shall continue to function as a subsidiary body of the Committee of Experts and that the Committee may alter, as required, the composition of its subsidiary bodies", and that the Committee of Experts "shall study the questions concerning the construction, testing and use of tanks other than those permanently fixed to, or forming part of, the structure of sea-going vessels or inland waterway craft". In paragraph 5 of the same resolution, the Council also suggested that the Committee of Experts consider:

"(a) In view of the appearance of new dangerous goods, enlarging the list of dangerous goods by including there new dangerous goods;

"(b) Grouping dangerous goods within classes by the type and degree of the danger of their transportation, with due regard to the specific conditions of their transportation such as their compatibility;

"(c) Giving each of the dangerous goods a numerical designation, which, in addition to the 'dangerous goods' label would indicate the group of compatibility, which could be instrumental in the solution of the problems of the joint transportation of dangerous goods;

"(d) Supplementing the enlarged list of dangerous goods with indications of the properties and the category of danger of such goods,

the fire-fighting means, other safety measures regarding such goods and their packing."

155. A call for harmonization and uniformity was first expressed in resolution 1743 (LIV) of 4 May 1973, in which the Council, mindful of the increase of unitization and containerization of cargoes as part of total world transportation, invited "international organizations concerned to foster the adoption of a single system of identification, classification and labelling of dangerous goods" and requested the Committee to continue to investigate divergencies currently existing in the modal practices in that respect. This was reflected in resolution 1973 (LIX) of 30 July 1975, in which the Council, noting that dangerous goods accounted for an increasingly large proportion of international trade and that their transport in complete safety should not hamper the development of trade or of the participation of developing countries, "requested the Committee to study, in consultation with other bodies concerned, particularly the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization, the International Civil Aviation Organization, the International Air Transport Association and the regional commissions, the possibility of an international convention on the transport of dangerous goods by all modes of transport". This request was repeated in Council resolution 2050 (LXII) of 5 May 1977 with the addition that the special problems of developing countries should be taken into account.

Composition and membership

156. Under Council resolution 645 G (XXIII), the Committee was to consist of "not more than nine qualified experts from countries interested in the international transport of dangerous goods". Governments were invited to make available, at the request of the Secretary-General and at their own expense, the members of the Committee of Experts. The Council, in resolution 1973 (LIX) of 30 July 1975, decided to enlarge the composition of the Committee of Experts by adding five members from developing countries, so as to ensure the adequate participation of such countries. Fourteen experts are currently participating.

Subsidiary body of the Committee of Experts

Subcommittee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods

157. The Group of Rapporteurs, which prior to 1975 was called the Group of Rapporteurs on the packing of dangerous goods, had been instituted by the Committee at its third session in 1963 and the creation of this subsidiary body was tacitly approved by the Council by its resolution 994 (XXXVI). The Group of Experts on Explosives was set up in answer to a request formulated in Council resolution 724 C (XXVIII).

158. In its resolution 1989/104 of 27 July 1989, the Council endorsed the decision of the Committee to combine its two subsidiary bodies, the Group of Rapporteurs and the Group of Experts on Explosives, into a single Subcommittee

of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods. In particular resolutions on the work of the Committee of Experts the Council has made specific recommendations on its tasks.

Reporting procedure

159. The Committee of Experts originally reported to the Transport and Communications Commission. At present, the Secretary-General submits to the Council, on a biennial basis, a report on the work of the Committee of Experts.

Frequency of meetings

160. The Subcommittee meets twice a year in odd years and once during the first half of the even year. The Committee of Experts meets during the second half of the even year.

2. Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting

Terms of reference

161. The Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 1979/44 of 11 May 1979, established the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting. In resolution 1982/67 of 27 October 1982, the Council decided to establish an Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting, which should "serve as an international body for the consideration of issues of accounting and reporting falling within the scope of the work of the Commission on Transnational Corporations, in order to improve the availability and comparability of information disclosed by transnational corporations; should review developments in this field, including the work of standard-setting bodies; and should concentrate on establishing priorities, taking into account the needs of home and host countries, particularly those of developing countries".

162. In addition, the Council decided that "the Group should meet for a period of two weeks not more than once a year and should report to the Commission on Transnational Corporations on further steps to be taken in pursuit of the long-term objective of the international harmonization of accounting and reporting within the scope of the work of the Commission, particularly with regard to the comprehensive information system and the code of conduct on transnational corporations currently being formulated, on the understanding that duplication of work should be avoided". In its resolution 1991/56 of 26 July 1991, the Council decided that the Commission, at its annual session, should keep under review the work of the Group; in particular, it should review the mandate, terms of reference and achievements of the Group after five years, with a view to deciding on the advisability of its continuation.

Membership and composition

163. In accordance with paragraph 4 (b) of Council resolution 1982/67, "taking into account the different existing systems of accounting and reporting and without prejudice to the principle of equitable geographical distribution", the Group is composed of 34 members elected by the Council on the following basis:

(a) Nine members from African States;

(b) Seven members from Asian States;

(c) Three members from Eastern European States;

(d) Six members from Latin American and Caribbean States;

(e) Nine members from Western European and other States.

Pursuant to paragraph 4 (c) of that resolution, each State so elected shall appoint an expert with appropriate experience in the field of accounting and reporting.

Term of office

164. The term of office of members is three years (Council resolution 1982/67, para. 4 (d)).

Frequency of meetings and reporting procedure

165. In accordance with paragraph 2 (g) of Council resolution 1982/67, the Group meets annually and reports to the Commission on Transnational Corporations.

3. United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names

Terms of reference

166. The Council, in its resolution 715 A (XXVII) of 23 April 1959, requested the Secretary-General to set up a small group of consultants to consider the technical problems of domestic standardization of geographical names, including the preparation of a statement of the general and regional problems involved, to prepare draft recommendations for the procedures, principally linguistic, that might be followed in the standardization of their own names by individual countries and to report to the Council on the desirability of holding an international conference on this subject and of the sponsoring of working groups based on common linguistic systems.

167. The First United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names was held at Geneva from 4 to 22 September 1967. On the basis of the recommendations of the Conference, the Council, in resolution

1314 (XLVI) of 31 May 1968, approved the terms of reference for the Ad Hoc Group of Experts, which was renamed "United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names" by a Council decision of 4 May 1973.

168. In its decision 1988/116 of 25 May 1988, the Council also approved the statute and rules of procedure of the Group of Experts (E/1988/22, annex II).

169. The basic aim of the Group of Experts are:

(a) To consider principles and methods for solving problems in the national and international standardization of geographical names;

(b) To collect information on the work of national and international bodies on the standardization of geographical names and disseminate it to States Members of the United Nations;

(c) To promote the sharing of experience of national bodies on the standardization of geographical names;

(d) To encourage the supply of scientific and technical help to developing countries in the national standardization of geographical names.

170. To further those aims, the functions of the Group of Experts are:

(a) To provide liaison between countries in their work on geographical names;

(b) To coordinate between countries their efforts in the standardization of geographical names;

(c) To undertake the preparatory work for the periodic international conferences on the standardization of geographical names;

(d) To provide continuity of action between conferences;

(e) To assist in the implementation of resolutions adopted at conferences;

(f) To consider the formation of linguistic/geographical divisions as rational bases for furthering work at the national level;

(g) To coordinate the activities of the divisions;

(h) To maintain liaison with other international organizations dealing with related subjects;

(i) To encourage the divisions and countries to take a more active role in standardization programmes; to this end, divisions should formulate their own working procedures and coordinate them with the Group of Experts to ensure uniform content and principles;

(j) To encourage divisions, wherever feasible, to participate in United Nations regional or other cartographic conferences; by convening a divisional meeting in conjunction with a conference, the divisions may take advantage of conference facilities.

Membership and composition

171. At present, the Group is composed of some 40 experts from 30 countries, organized into 17 lingusitic/geographical divisions. Within this Group, several working groups have been created to carry out special tasks, such as the setting up of training courses in toponymy, the comparative study of the various systems of transliteration towards a single romanization system for each of the non-Roman writing systems and the production of international gazetteers.

Reporting procedure

172. The Group of Experts normally reports to the United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names.

Frequency of meetings

173. The Group of Experts normally meets biennially. In years when a United Nations conference on the standardization of geographical names is held, it meets on dates immediately preceding the opening date of the conference and immediately following the closing date of the conference.

E. Expert bodies composed of members serving in their personal capacity

1. Committee on Crime Prevention and Control

Terms of reference

174. The Committee was first established by the Secretary-General as the Ad Hoc Advisory Committee of Experts pursuant to General Assembly resolution 415 (V) of 1 December 1950 (annex, para. (c)), to which were transferred the functions of the International Penal and Penitentiary Commission. It was subsequently renamed the Advisory Committee of Experts on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders in resolution 1086 B (XXXIX) of 30 July 1965. By Council resolution 1584 (L) of 21 May 1971, the name was changed again to Committee on Crime Prevention and Control. Its functions

were further specified by Assembly resolution 32/60 of 8 December 1977 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1979/19 of 9 May 1979. 4/

175. The Council, in paragraph 1 of its resolution 1979/19 on the functions and long-term programme of work of the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control, entrusted it with the following main functions:

> "(a) Preparation of the [quinquennial] United Nations congresses on the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders with a view to considering and facilitating the introduction of more effective methods and ways of preventing crime and improving the treatment of offenders;
>
> "(b) Preparation and submission to the competent United Nations bodies and to those congresses, for their approval, of programmes of international co-operation in the field of crime prevention on the basis of principles of sovereign equality of States and non-interference in internal affairs, and other proposals related to the prevention of offences;
>
> "(c) Provision of assistance to the Economic and Social Council in the co-ordination of the activities of United Nations bodies in matters concerning crime control and the treatment of offenders, and preparation and submission of findings and recommendations to the Secretary-General and to the appropriate United Nations bodies;
>
> "(d) Promotion of exchanges of experience gained by States in the field of crime prevention and the treatment of offenders;
>
> "(e) Discussion of major issues of professional interest, as a basis for international co-operation in this field, particularly those related to the prevention and reduction of crime".

Membership and composition

176. In accordance with Council resolution 1979/30 of 9 May 1979, the Committee has 27 members, with its seats distributed as follows:

(a) Seven seats to African States;

(b) Six seats to Asian States;

(c) Three seats to Eastern European States;

4/ The United Nations Office of Legal Affairs concluded on 7 October 1971 that, "under the terms of Council resolution 1584 (L), the Committee is a subsidiary organ of the Council ..." (see United Nations Juridical Yearbook, 1971 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.73.V.1), p. 205).

(d) Five seats to Latin American and Caribbean States;

(e) Six seats to Western European and other States.

Term of office

177. In paragraph 4 of resolution 32/60, the General Assembly decided that the term of office should be four years, with half the membership being elected every two years.

Reporting procedure

178. The Committee reports directly to the Council. Its report is presented as a supplement to the Official Records of the Economic and Social Council. However, the report of the quinquennial United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders is issued as a document of the General Assembly.

Frequency of meetings

179. In accordance with paragraph (b) of the annex to Assembly resolution 415 (V), the Committee meets biennially.

2. Committee for Development Planning

Terms of reference

180. The Economic and Social Council, in resolution 1035 (XXXVII) of 15 August 1964, requested the Secretary-General "to consider, as the work of United Nations bodies on economic planning and projections progressed, the establishment of a group of experts in planning theory and practice to work as a consultative body within the United Nations". The Committee was given the following terms of reference by the Council in paragraph 3 of its resolution 1079 (XXXIX) of 28 July 1965:

"(a) To consider and evaluate the programmes and activities of the organs of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies relating to economic planning and projections and to propose measures for their improvement for consideration by the Council;

"(b) To consider and evaluate, inter alia, the progress made, within the framework of the activities of the United Nations and the specialized agencies, in the transfer of knowledge to developing countries and in the training of personnel of those countries in economic planning and projection;

"(c) To analyse, with the help of the organs of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies, the major trends of planning and programming in the world, the principal problems and the solutions they are receiving, and in particular the progress made in that connection relevant to the development of the less-developed regions;

"(d) To study individual questions in the field of economic planning and programming referred to it by the Council, by the Secretary-General or by the executive heads of the specialized agencies;

"(e) To make any suggestions it may consider useful concerning the scope of its terms of reference".

181. The Council, in paragraph 2 of its resolution 1625 (LI) of 30 July 1971, also assigned the Committee the task of preparing comments and recommendations that could help the Council in discharging its responsibility to the General Assembly relating to biennial overall appraisals of progress in implementing the international development strategy.

Membership and composition

182. In accordance with paragraph 3 of Council resolution 1625 (LI), the Committee has 24 members. They serve in their individual capacities as experts and not as the representatives of States, and are appointed by the Council, on nomination of the Secretary-General after consultation with interested Governments. The members should be experts representing different planning systems.

Terms of office

183. The term of office is three years.

Reporting procedure

184. The Committee reports directly to the Council. Its report is presented as a supplement to the Official Records of the Economic and Social Council.

Frequency of meetings

185. In accordance with Council resolution 1768 (LIV), the Committee meets annually.

Working groups

186. In order to enable the Committee to carry out its tasks efficiently, the Council decided, in resolution 1625 (LI), to permit the Committee to continue its existing practice of holding meetings of its working groups.

187. The Committee has at present three working groups. In addition to helping the Committee to carry out the functions assigned to it by the Council in resolutions 1079 (XXXIX) and 1625 (LI), the working groups also assist the Committee in the task of overall appraisal of the progress in implementing the International Development Strategy and examination of the economic situation of particular countries with a view to their inclusion in the list of the least developed countries, as requested by the Council and the Assembly.

188. These working groups are each composed of five members and they meet at the request of the Committee to carry out specific tasks.

3. Meeting of Experts on the United Nations Programme in Public Administration and Finance

Terms of reference

189. The Economic and Social Council, in resolution 1199 (XLII) of 24 May 1967, requested the Secretary-General to elaborate more specific objectives and programmes in the field of public administration, in close collaboration with the specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations concerned. It also decided that the United Nations programme in public administration should from time to time be reviewed by a meeting of experts and that the report of the meeting should be submitted to it for consideration.

190. In subsequent resolutions, the Council has invited the Secretary-General to convene the meeting of experts and has given it specific guidelines for consideration. Those guidelines have included, in particular, an examination of changes and trends in public administration and finance at both the national and international levels, a review of issues and priorities in public administration and finance for development in developing countries, and the progress achieved in implementing the relevant provisions of the International Development Strategy. The recommendations of the meeting of experts are generally transmitted by the Secretary-General to Member States for their review and appropriate action.

191. In its decision 1989/114 of 22 May 1989, the Council requested the Secretary-General to convene the Tenth Meeting of Experts in 1991 and decided that the Meeting (a) should review the programme of work in public administration and finance and the technical cooperation activities of the United Nations in that field, in particular the development of specific programmes and proposals for technical cooperation among developing countries, and (b) should focus on current issues in the field with a view to providing timely technical advice to developing countries and should accord special attention (i) to assisting Governments in strengthening policy formulation processes by improving, in particular, government budgeting and accounting systems and (ii) to developing ways of identifying specific needs for training programmes for promoting human resources development in the public sector. The Tenth Meeting of Experts was held from 4 to 11 September 1991.

Membership and composition

192. Experts attending the meetings were invited by the Secretary-General in their individual capacities from countries in different stages of development and under different political and administrative systems from Africa, the Americas, Asia and Europe. In addition to experts, all the United Nations regional commissions and specialized agencies (including IBRD and IMF) and selected global and regional non-governmental organizations in the area of public administration and finance are also invited as observers to the Meeting of Experts. Twenty-eight experts were invited to the Tenth Meeting.

Reporting procedure

193. The meeting reports to the Council (Council resolution 1199 (XLII)).

Frequency of meetings

194. There is no mandated periodicity, although meetings are generally held on a biennial basis.

4. Ad Hoc Group of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters

Terms of reference

195. The Economic and Social Council, in resolution 1273 (XLIII) of 4 August 1967, requested the Secretary-General to set up a group of experts to explore, in consultation with interested international agencies, ways and means for facilitating the conclusion of tax treaties between developed and developing countries, including the formulation, as appropriate, of possible guidelines and techniques for use in such tax treaties which would be acceptable to both groups of countries and would fully safeguard their respective revenue interests.

196. In resolution 1765 (LIV) of 18 May 1973, the Council requested the Ad Hoc Group to continue its work on guidelines for tax treaties between developed and developing countries and to study the implementation of tax agreements, in such areas as income allocation, international tax evasion and avoidance and tax incentives. The Council also requested the Secretary-General to make the necessary arrangements for convening the Ad Hoc Group at regular intervals.

197. In resolution 1980/13 of 28 April 1980, the Council endorsed the recommendation of the Secretary-General contained in his report (E/1980/11 and Corr.1, para. 52) that, since the Group of Experts on Tax Treaties between Developed and Developing Countries had finalized the United Nations Model Double Taxation Convention between Developed and Developing Countries, it should be given a broader title. The Council also indicated that the new title would be "Ad Hoc Group of Experts on International Co-operation in Tax Matters". In the same resolution the Council entrusted the Ad Hoc Group of

Experts with the task of examining the question of international tax evasion and avoidance "with a view to working out, as soon as possible, proposals for international co-operation to combat such evasion and avoidance".

Membership and composition

198. The Ad Hoc Group of Experts consists of 25 tax experts (Council decision 1980/155 of 18 July 1980) from 10 developed and 15 developing countries, nominated by Governments but acting in their personal capacity.

Reporting procedure

199. Pursuant to the request of the Council in paragraph 5 of its resolution 1980/13, the Secretary-General submits to the Council a report on the meeting of the Group of Experts.

Frequency of meetings

200. Although ad hoc, the Group of Experts generally meets biennially.

5. Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Terms of reference

201. The Economic and Social Council, in decision 1978/10 of 3 May 1978, decided to establish a sessional working group on the implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights for the purpose of assisting the Council in the consideration of reports submitted by States parties to the International Covenant, in conformity with article 16 of the Covenant and in accordance with the programme established by the Council in its resolution 1988 (LX) of 11 May 1976, under which the States parties were to furnish in biennial stages the reports referred to in article 16 of the Covenant.

202. The Council, in its resolution 1979/43 of 11 May 1979, also entrusted the Working Group with the task of considering the reports of the specialized agencies, submitted to the Council in accordance with article 18 of the Covenant and the programme established under Council resolution 1988 (LX), on the progress made in achieving the observance of the provisions of the Covenant falling within the scope of their activities.

203. By Council resolution 1982/33 of 6 May 1982, the Working Group was renamed "Sessional Working Group of Governmental Experts on the Implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights". By Council resolution 1985/17 of 28 May 1985, the Sessional Working Group was renamed "Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights".

204. The procedures and methods of work established by the Council in its resolutions 1988 (LX), 1979/43 and 1982/33 and decisions 1978/10 and 1981/158 remain in force in so far as they are not superseded or modified by resolution 1985/17. In that resolution, the Council decided that the experts should serve in their personal capacities. The Council, in its decision 1990/251 of 25 May 1990, approved the Committee's provisional rules of procedure and also approved the holding of a pre-sessional working group of the Committee one to three months prior to the session.

Membership and composition

205. In accordance with Council resolution 1985/17, the Committee has 18 members who are experts with recognized competence in the field of human rights, serving in their personal capacity, due consideration being given to equitable geographical distribution and to the representation of different forms of social and legal systems; to this end, 15 seats are equally distributed among the regional groups, while the additional 3 seats are allocated in accordance with the increase in the total number of States parties per regional group. The members of the Committee are elected by the Council by secret ballot from a list of persons nominated by States parties to the International Covenant.

Frequency of meetings and reporting procedure

206. The Committee meets annually and reports directly to the Council (Council resolution 1985/17, paras. 4 (d) and (f)). Its report is presented as a supplement to the Official Records of the Economic and Social Council.

III. SUBSIDIARY BODIES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND RELATED FIELDS

A. Standing bodies 5/

1. Committee on the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy

Terms of reference

207. The General Assembly, in section II to its resolution 37/250 of 21 December 1982, decided "to establish an intergovernmental Committee on the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy" for the purpose of assisting "the General Assembly in, inter alia, the following functions:

"(a) Recommending policy guidelines for different organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system in regard to new and renewable sources of energy, on the basis of the Nairobi Programme of Action (for the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy); 6/

"(b) Formulating and recommending action-oriented plans and programmes for carrying out the Nairobi Programme of Action in accordance with the priorities identified in paragraphs 47 to 56 of that Programme;

"(c) Keeping under review and modifying as may be necessary the priorities established in paragraphs 47 to 56 of the Nairobi Programme of Action;

"(d) Reviewing and assessing trends and policy measures related to the development and utilization of new and renewable sources of energy, with a view to increasing their contributions to meeting future overall energy requirements;

"(e) Promoting the mobilization of the resources required in the implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action;

5/ The Committee for Programme and Coordination is a subsidiary body of both the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly (see paras. 114-119 above).

6/ Report of the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy, Nairobi, 10 to 21 August 1981 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.81.I.24), chap. I A.

"(f) Recommending guidelines to the financial organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system in the financing of the activities related to the implementation of the measures of the Nairobi Programme of Action, and helping to ensure the implementation of the measures listed in section III of the Programme relating to financial resources;

"(g) Monitoring the implementation and helping to ensure coordination of the measures established in the Nairobi Programme of Action as well as of the activities of the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system in the field of new and renewable sources of energy;

"(h) Being informed of, drawing upon and contributing to the work and expertise of governmental and other intergovernmental institutions in the field of new and renewable sources of energy;

"(i) Reviewing the activities of the United Nations system in the field of new and renewable sources of energy and the implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action, and where necessary making recommendations on the adaptation of the Programme."

Membership and composition

208. In section II, paragraph 1, of its resolution 37/250, the Assembly decided that the Committee "shall be open to the participation of all States as full members".

Reporting procedure

209. In section II, paragraph 4, of its resolution 37/250, the Assembly decided that "the Committee shall submit its reports and recommendations to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council, which may transmit to the Assembly such comments on the reports as it may deem necessary". The reports of the Committee are presented as supplements to the Official Records of the General Assembly.

Frequency of meetings

210. In its resolution 37/250, section II, paragraph 3, the Assembly decided that "the Committee shall meet once every two years in even years".

2. High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries

Terms of reference

211. The General Assembly, in its resolution 33/134 of 19 December 1978, having recognized the role of technical cooperation among developing countries for initiating, designing, organizing and promoting cooperation so that

developing countries can create, acquire, adapt, transfer and pool knowledge and experience for their mutual benefit and for achieving national and collective self-reliance and having declared that the United Nations Conference on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, held at Buenos Aires from 30 August to 12 September 1978, was a major step in the strengthening of cooperation among developing countries and that the implementation of its recommendations constituted a major contribution in the evolution of international cooperation for development and in the establishment of the new international economic order, endorsed the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries 7/ as an important instrument of the international community to intensify and strengthen cooperation among developing countries, and decided to entrust the overall intergovernmental review of technical cooperation among developing countries within the United Nations system to a high-level meeting of representatives of all States participating in UNDP to be convened by the Administrator of the Programme in accordance with the provisions of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action.

212. In its resolution 35/202 of 16 December 1980, the General Assembly decided that the High-level Meeting should be called the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, with the same functions and frame of reference as those outlined in recommendation 37 and other relevant recommendations of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action.

Reporting procedure

213. The Committee reports to the General Assembly through the UNDP Governing Council and the Economic and Social Council. Its reports are presented as supplements to the Official Records of the General Assembly.

Frequency of meetings

214. The Committee meets once every two years in odd-numbered years.

3. Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development

Terms of reference

215. In its resolution 34/218 of 19 December 1979, by which it endorsed the Vienna Programme of Action on Science and Technology for Development, 8/ the

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7/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, Buenos Aires, 30 August-12 September 1978 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.78.II.A.11 and corrigendum), part one, chap. I.

8/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development, Vienna, 20-31 August 1979 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.79.I.21 and corrigenda), chap. VII.

General Assembly decided "to establish an Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development" and further decided "that the Committee shall assist the General Assembly, inter alia, in the following functions:

"(a) Formulating policy guidelines for the harmonization of policies of the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system in regard to scientific and technological activities, on the basis of the Vienna Programme of Action and with a view to contributing to the establishment of a new international economic order;

"(b) Promoting the improvement of linkages between the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, with a view to ensuring the coordinated implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action;

"(c) Identifying priorities for activities within the Vienna Programme of Action with a view to facilitating operational planning at the national, subregional, regional, interregional and international levels;

"(d) Preparing an operational plan for carrying out the Vienna Programme of Action;

"(e) Monitoring the activities and programmes related to science and technology within the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system;

"(f) Promoting the optimum mobilization of resources in order to enable the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to carry out the activities of the Vienna Programme of Action;

"(g) Initiating arrangements for the early identification and assessment of new scientific and technological developments which may adversely affect the development process as well as those which may have specific and potential importance for that process and for strengthening the scientific and technological capacities of the developing countries;

"(h) Providing directives and policy-making guidance to the United Nations Financing System for Science and Technology for Development, as described in section VI below."

216. In section VI of the same resolution, the Assembly decided to establish a "United Nations Financing System for Science and Technology for Development" and further decided "that the Financing System shall finance a broad range of activities intended to strengthen the endogenous scientific and technological capacities of the developing countries, in particular to assist in the implementation of the measures envisaged in the Vienna Programme of Action ...".

217. In paragraph 11 of its resolution 37/244 of 21 December 1982, the General Assembly further specified the functions of the Committee as follows:

"(a) General policy orientation of, and direction for, the Financing System;

"(b) Decisions on policy proposals, including recommendations on levels of resources;

"(c) General review and evaluation of the activities of the Financing System;

"(d) Election of members to the Executive Board [of the Financing System] ...;

"(e) Consideration of reports of the Executive Board."

218. In its resolution 41/183 of 8 December 1986, the Assembly decided to terminate the Financing System as at 31 December 1986 and to transfer its responsibilities and resources to an identifiable facility entitled "United Nations Fund for Science and Technology for Development", to be established as a trust fund within UNDP and requested the Intergovernmental Committee to provide policy guidance and priorities for activities of the Fund within the framework of the Vienna Programme of Action.

219. In its resolutions 44/14 A to E of 26 October 1989, in relation to the end-of-decade review of the Vienna Programme of Action, the Assembly, inter alia, called for enhanced coordination and harmonization of system-wide activities in science and technology.

Subsidiary body

220. By its resolution 35/67 A of 5 December 1980, the General Assembly endorsed, inter alia, decision 7 (II) of 4 June 1980 of the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development, whereby the Committee established the Advisory Committee on Science and Technology for Development. In accordance with the terms of reference outlined in the annex to decision 7 (II), the Advisory Committee is a subsidiary body of the Intergovernmental Committee which provides, at the request of the Intergovernmental Committee, such scientific and technical expert advice as may be necessary for the discharge of the mandate of the Intergovernmental Committee. It also provides, through the Intergovernmental Committee, expert advice to the Economic and Social Council and other intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations system, as well as to the Secretary-General.

Reporting procedure

221. In its resolution 34/218, the General Assembly requested the Committee to report to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council. Its reports are presented as supplements to the Official Records of the General Assembly.

Frequency of meetings

222. Since 1987, the Committee meets once every two years in odd-numbered years.

4. United Nations Children's Fund

Terms of reference

223. The United Nations Children's Fund was first created by the General Assembly in its resolution 57 (I) of 11 December 1946 under the name "International Children's Emergency Fund" as a temporary fund "to be utilized for the benefit of children and adolescents of countries which were the victims of aggression". In paragraph 3 of the same resolution, the Assembly decided that the "Fund shall be administered by an Executive Director under policies, including the determination of programmes and allocation of funds, established by an Executive Board in accordance with such principles as might be laid down by the Economic and Social Council and its Social Commission".

224. The terms of reference of the Fund were set out as follows in paragraph 1 of Assembly resolution 57 (I):

> "(a) For the benefit of children and adolescents of countries which were victims of aggression and in order to assist in their rehabilitation;
>
> "(b) For the benefit of children and adolescents of countries at present receiving assistance from the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration;
>
> "(c) For child health purposes generally, giving high priority to the children of countries victims of aggression."

225. The Assembly, in its resolution 417 (V) of 1 December 1950, "recognizing the necessity for continued action to relieve the sufferings of children, particularly in underdeveloped countries and countries that had been subjected to the devastation of war and to other calamities", decided "that during the period of the Fund's existence ... the Board, in accordance with such principles as may be laid down by the Economic and Social Council and its Social Commission, shall, with due regard to the urgency of the needs and available resources, formulate the policies, determine the programmes and allocate the resources of the Fund for the purpose of meeting, through the provision of supplies, training and advice, emergency and long-range needs of children and their continuing needs particularly in underdeveloped countries, with a view to strengthening, wherever this may be appropriate, the permanent child health and child welfare programmes of the countries receiving assistance; that the Executive Board shall take all necessary steps to ensure close collaboration between the Administration of the Fund and the specialized agencies, pursuant to the agreements between the United Nations and the specialized agencies; ... that the General Assembly will again consider the

future of the Fund at the expiration of three years, with the object of continuing the Fund on a permanent basis".

226. The Fund was placed on a permanent footing by the Assembly in its resolution 802 (VIII) of 6 October 1953, as the Assembly reaffirmed the pertinent provisions of its resolutions 57 (I) and 417 (V), with the exception of any reference to time-limits contained in those resolutions. In the same resolution, the Assembly decided to change the name of the organization to the "United Nations Children's Fund, retaining the symbol UNICEF".

Membership and composition of the Executive Board of UNICEF

227. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 36/244 of 28 April 1982, the Executive Board consists of 41 members, to be elected by the Economic and Social Council from States Members of the United Nations or members of specialized agencies or of the International Atomic Energy Agency, subject to the following conditions:

(a) Nine seats for African States;

(b) Nine seats for Asian States;

(c) Four seats for Eastern European States;

(d) Six seats for Latin American and Caribbean States;

(e) Twelve seats for Western European and other States;

(f) One seat to be rotated among the five regional groups, in the following order:

(i) African States;

(ii) Latin American and Caribbean States;

(iii) Asian States;

(iv) Western European and other States;

(v) Eastern European States.

Term of office

228. The term of office of members is three years.

Reporting procedure

229. The Executive Board reports to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council. Its reports are presented as supplements to the Official Records of the Economic and Social Council.

Frequency of meetings

230. The Executive Board meets in regular session once a year.

5. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

Terms of reference

231. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) was established as an organ of the General Assembly and given its terms of reference by the Assembly in its resolution 1995 (XIX) of 30 December 1964. The principal functions of the Conference were given in section II, paragraph 3, of the resolution and are the following:

> "(a) To promote international trade, especially with a view to accelerating economic development, particularly trade between countries at different stages of development, between developing countries and between countries with different systems of economic and social organization, taking into account the functions performed by existing international organizations;
>
> "(b) To formulate principles and policies on international trade and related problems of economic development;
>
> "(c) To make proposals for putting the said principles and policies into effect and to take such other steps within its competence as may be relevant to this end, having regard to differences in economic systems and stages of development;
>
> "(d) Generally, to review and facilitate the coordination of activities of other institutions within the United Nations system in the field of international trade and related problems of economic development, and in this regard to cooperate with the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council with respect to the performance of their responsibilities for coordination under the Charter of the United Nations;
>
> "(e) To initiate action, where appropriate, in cooperation with the competent organs of the United Nations for the negotiation and adoption of multilateral legal instruments in the field of trade, with due regard to the adequacy of existing organs of negotiation and without duplication of their activities;
>
> "(f) To be available as a centre for harmonizing the trade and related development policies of Government and regional economic groupings in pursuance of Article 1 of the Charter;
>
> "(g) To deal with any other matters within the scope of its competence."

232. The Assembly, in its resolution 31/159 of 21 December 1976, affirmed, in the context of section I of Conference resolution 90 (IV), that "the functions mentioned therein should be strengthened in order to increase the effectiveness of the Conference as an organ of the General Assembly for deliberation, negotiation, review and implementation in the field of international trade and related issues of international economic cooperation which would play a major role in the improvement of the conditions of international trade, the acceleration of the growth of the world economy, including in particular the economic development of developing countries, and in the realization of the objectives of Assembly resolutions 3201 (S-VI), 3202 (S-VI), 3281 (XXIX) and 3362 (S-VII)".

233. In paragraph 18 of the annex to its resolution 32/197 of 20 December 1977, on the conclusions and recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors of the United Nations System, the Assembly decided that, in the light of its resolution 31/159, appropriate measures should be taken to enable UNCTAD, within available resources, effectively to play the major role envisaged in Conference resolution 90 (IV) as an organ of the Assembly for deliberation, negotiation, review and implementation in the field of international trade and related areas of international economic cooperation, bearing in mind the need to maintain its close and cooperative relationship with the Assembly and to cooperate with the Economic and Social Council in carrying out the Council's responsibilities under the Charter.

234. In its resolution 34/196 of 19 December 1979, the Assembly endorsed Conference resolution 114 (V) of 3 June 1979 on institutional issues and called for the necessary action for its full implementation. In particular in section I of resolution 114 (V), the Conference had invited the Assembly to take the necessary action for strengthening UNCTAD in accordance with the relevant provisions of Assembly resolutions 1995 (XIX) and 32/197 and Conference resolution 90 (IV), taking into account the mandates of other international organizations and bodies.

Trade and Development Board

235. The Assembly, in paragraph 4 of its resolution 1995 (XIX), established the Trade and Development Board as part of the United Nations machinery in the economic field and outlined its functions in paragraphs 14 to 23 as follows:

(a) When the Conference is not in session, to carry out the functions that fall within the competence of the Conference;

(b) To keep under review and take appropriate action within its competence for the implementation of the recommendations, declarations, resolutions and other decisions of the Conference and to ensure the continuity of its work;

(c) To make or initiate studies and reports in the field of trade and related problems of development;

(d) To request the Secretary-General of the United Nations to prepare such reports, studies or other documents as it may deem appropriate;

(e) As required, to make arrangements to obtain reports from and establish links with intergovernmental bodies whose activities are relevant to its functions, and in order to avoid duplication to avail itself, whenever possible, of the relevant reports made to the Economic and Social Council and other United Nations bodies;

(f) To establish close and continuous links with the regional economic commissions of the United Nations and to establish such links with other relevant regional intergovernmental bodies;

(g) In its relations with organs and agencies within the United Nations system, to act in conformity with the responsibilities of the Council under the Charter, particularly those of coordination, and with the relationship agreements with the agencies concerned;

(h) To serve as a preparatory committee for future sessions of the Conference and, to that end, to initiate the preparation of documents, including a provisional agenda, for consideration by the Conference, as well as make recommendations as to the app.opriate date and place for its convening;

(i) To establish such subsidiary organs as may be necessary to the effective discharge of its functions.

Subsidiary bodies

236. The Board is assisted in carrying out its functions by the following main subsidiary bodies: the Committee on Commodities, the Committee on Manufactures, the Committee on Invisibles and Financing related to Trade, the Committee on Shipping, the Special Committee on Preferences, the Committee on Transfer of Technology, the Committee on Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries, the Working Party on the Medium-Term Plan and the Programme, the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Restrictive Business Practices and the Intergovernmental Group on Least Developed Countries.

237. Some subsidiary organs of the Board have their own subsidiary bodies, dealing with particular subjects, such as the Working Group on International Shipping Legislation (of the Committee on Shipping) and the Committee on Tungsten (of the Committee on Commodities).

Membership and composition

238. In accordance with Assembly resolution 31/2 of 29 September 1976, the membership of the Board is open to all members of the Conference. The members of the Conference, as indicated in Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX), are those States which are Members of the United Nations or members of the specialized agencies or of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Reporting procedure

239. Paragraph 22 of Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX) provides that "the Board shall report to the Conference and it shall also report annually on its activities to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council. The Council may transmit to the Assembly such comments on the reports as it may deem necessary." The reports of the Board are presented as supplements to the Official Records of the General Assembly.

Frequency of meetings

240. In accordance with paragraph 13 of section II of Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX), as amended by resolutions 2904 (XXVII) of 26 September 1972 and 34/3 of 4 October 1979, the Board normally meets twice a year. The Board holds one session in two parts every year. It may also meet in special session between the sessions of the Conference which are normally convened at intervals of not more than four years.

6. United Nations Development Fund for Women

Terms of reference

241. The United Nations Development Fund for Women was first established as the voluntary fund for the International Women's Year by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1850 (LVI) of 16 May 1974. At its thirtieth session, at its 2441st plenary meeting, on 15 December 1975, the General Assembly decided that the voluntary fund for the International Women's Year should be extended to cover the period of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace. In paragraph 1 of its resolution 31/133 of 16 December 1976, the Assembly adopted "the following criteria and arrangements for the management of the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women:

"(a) Criteria:

"The resources of the Fund should be utilized to supplement activities in the following areas designed to implement the goals of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, priority being given to the related programmes and projects of the least developed, land-locked and island countries among developing countries:

"(i) Technical cooperation activities;

"(ii) Development and/or strengthening of regional and international programmes;

"(iii) Development and implementation of joint interorganizational programmes;

"(iv) Research, data collection and analysis, relevant to (i), (ii) and (iii) above;

"(v) Communication support and public information activities designed to promote the goals of the Decade and, in particular, the activities undertaken under (i), (ii) and (iii) above;

"(vi) In the selection of projects and programmes, special consideration should be given to those which benefit rural women, poor women in urban areas and other marginal groups of women, especially the disadvantaged;

"(b) Arrangements:

"The General Assembly endorses the arrangements for the future management of the Fund contained in the annex to the present resolution."

242. In paragraph 3 of the same resolution, the General Assembly requested "the President of the Assembly to select ... five Member States each of which should appoint a representative to serve on the Consultative Committee on the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women to advise the Secretary-General on the application to the use of the Fund of the criteria set forth in paragraph 1 [of resolution 31/133]".

243. In paragraph 1 of its resolution 39/125 of 14 December 1984, the Assembly decided "that the activities of the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women shall be continued through establishment of a separate and identifiable entity in autonomous association with the United Nations Development Programme, which will play an innovative and catalytic role in relation to the United Nations overall system of development cooperation".

244. In the annex to that resolution, entitled "Arrangements for the management of the United Nations Development Fund for Women", it is indicated that the Fund was established as a separate and identifiable entity in autonomous association with UNDP. The Administrator of UNDP was to be accountable for all aspects of the management and operations of the Fund and a Consultative Committee would advise the Administrator on all policy matters relating to the activities of the Fund. All operations of the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women were transferred to the Fund.

245. In its resolution 40/104 of 13 December 1985, the Assembly expressed "its satisfaction that the establishment of the United Nations Development Fund for Women, in autonomous association with the United Nations Development Programme, was effected on the agreed target date of 1 July 1985, in accordance with the arrangements set out in General Assembly resolution 39/125" and approved the name United Nations Development Fund for Women.

246. In its resolution 45/128 of 14 December 1990, the Assembly stressed "the importance of the work for the Consultative Committee on the United Nations Development Fund for Women in policy and programme matters relating to the activities of the Fund".

Membership and composition of the Consultative Committee on the Fund and term of office of its members

247. In the annex to General Assembly resolution 39/125, the President of the General Assembly is required to "designate with due regard for the financing of the Fund from voluntary contributions and to equitable geographical distribution, five Member States to serve on the Consultative Committee for a period of three years. Each State member of the Consultative Committee shall designate a person with relevant expertise and experience in development co-operation activities, including those benefiting women, to serve on the Committee." The five regional groups are represented on the Consultative Committee.

Reporting procedure

248. In its resolution 31/133, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report annually to it on the management of the Fund. In paragraph 12 of the annex to the resolution, it is further stated that "an annual report showing funds available, pledges and payments received and the expenditures made from the Fund shall be prepared by the Controller and submitted to the General Assembly and, as appropriate, to the Commission on the Status of Women".

249. As outlined in paragraphs 15 and 16 of the annex to Assembly resolution 39/125, "the Director [of the Fund] shall prepare substantive and financial progress reports on the use of the Fund for the Administrator to submit to the Consultative Committee. Taking into account the advice of the Consultative Committee, the Administrator shall submit to the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme an annual report on the operations, management and budget of the Fund. He shall submit a similar report to the General Assembly, to be referred to the Second Committee for consideration of its technical cooperation aspects and also to the Third Committee." The reports of the Administrator are issued as documents of the General Assembly.

Frequency of meetings

250. The Consultative Committee meets twice a year.

7. United Nations Development Programme

Terms of reference

251. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) was established by the General Assembly in its resolution 2029 (XX) of 22 November 1965. In the resolution, the Assembly decided "to combine the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance and the Special Fund in a programme to be known as the United Nations Development Programme, it being understood that the special characteristics and operations of the two programmes, as well as two separate funds, will be maintained and that, as hitherto, contributions may be pledged to the two programmes separately". The Special Fund had been established by

the Assembly in its resolution 1240 (XIII) of 14 October 1958 to provide, inter alia, "systematic and sustained assistance in fields essential to the integrated technical, economic and social development of the less developed countries". A Governing Council of the Special Fund was also established by the same resolution to "provide general policy guidance on the administration and operations of the Special Fund".

252. The Assembly, in its resolution 2029 (XX), also established a Governing Council of UNDP "to perform the functions previously exercised by the Governing Council of the Special Fund and the Technical Assistance Committee, including the consideration and approval of projects and programmes and the allocation of funds; in addition, it shall provide general policy guidance and direction for the United Nations Development Programme as a whole, as well as for the United Nations regular programmes of technical assistance".

253. The basic principles and purposes of UNDP are outlined in detail in the annex to Assembly resolution 2688 (XXV) of 11 December 1970. The responsibility of the Governing Council is set forth in paragraph 35 of the annex as follows: "The Governing Council has overall responsibility for ensuring that the resources of the Programme are employed with maximum efficiency and effectiveness in assisting the development of the developing countries."

254. As set out in paragraph (e) of the annex to Assembly resolution 3405 (XXX) of 28 November 1975, the general guidelines for the orientation of UNDP were to ensure, inter alia, that:

"(i) The basic purpose of technical cooperation should be the promotion of self-reliance in developing countries ...;

"(ii) The selection of priority areas in which to seek the assistance of the United Nations Development Programme should remain the exclusive responsibility of the Governments of the recipient countries; in that context, the Programme should respond favourably to requests for meeting the most urgent and critical needs of each developing country, taking into account the importance of reaching the poorest and most vulnerable sections of their societies and enhancing the quality of their life;

"(iii) Technical cooperation should be seen in terms of output or the results to be achieved, rather than in terms of input;

"(iv) ... The United Nations should provide, where appropriate, equipment and material resources, adopt a more liberal policy towards local cost financing and be flexible in requirements for counterpart personnel;

...

"(vii) ... Governments and institutions in recipient countries should be increasingly entrusted with the responsibility for executing projects assisted by the United Nations Development Programme;

"(viii) Technical cooperation should be provided at any of the levels and stages of the development process ...;

"(ix) ... The United Nations Development Programme should more often enter into partnership with capital assistance sources ...;

"(x) In the context of new dimensions of technical cooperation, special attention should be paid to the requirements of the least developed among the developing countries."

Subsidiary bodies

255. The Governing Council, in its decision 90/23 of 23 June 1990, "convinced of the need to improve considerably the working methods of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme in order to make the Council more efficient", decided "to merge the Committee of the Whole and its Working Group into a Standing Committee for Programme Matters with the same mandate as in its decision 83/5 and 85/17 and further decides to review the mechanism in 1997".

Membership and composition of the Governing Council of UNDP

256. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 2813 (XXVI) of 14 December 1971, the Governing Council consists of 48 members elected by the Economic and Social Council from among States Members of the United Nations or members of specialized agencies or of the International Atomic Energy Agency, subject to the following conditions:

(a) Twenty-seven seats to be filled by developing countries, allocated as follows:

(i) Eleven seats for African States;

(ii) Nine seats for Asian States and Yugoslavia;

(iii) Seven seats for Latin American and Caribbean States;

(b) Twenty-one seats to be filled by economically more advanced countries, allocated as follows:

(i) Seventeen seats for Western European and other States;

(ii) Four seats for Eastern European States;

(c) The composition of seats in each group should at all times give due expression to adequate subregional representation.

Term of office

257. The term of office of members is three years (Assembly resolution 2813 (XXVI), para. 1 (d)).

Reporting procedure

258. In its resolution 2029 (XX), the General Assembly resolved that the Governing Council should submit reports and recommendations to the Economic and Social Council. The Governing Council reports to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council. Its reports are presented as supplements to the Official Records of the Economic and Social Council.

Frequency of meetings

259. In accordance with rule 1 of its rules of procedure, the Governing Council holds a short organizational meeting before the end of February to elect its officers, organize its programme of work for the year, and consider any other organizational matters. It holds an annual regular session.

8. United Nations Environment Programme

Terms of reference

260. The General Assembly, in its resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, "aware of the urgent need for a permanent institutional arrangement within the United Nations system for the protection and improvement of the environment," decided "to establish a Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme [with] the following main functions and responsibilities:

"(a) To promote international cooperation in the field of the environment and to recommend, as appropriate, policies to this end;

"(b) To provide general policy guidance for the direction and coordination of environmental programmes within the United Nations system;

"(c) To receive and review the periodic reports of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, referred to in section II, paragraph 2 [of the resolution], on the implementation of environmental programmes within the United Nations system;

"(d) To keep under review the world environmental situation in order to ensure that emerging environmental problems of wide international significance receive appropriate and adequate consideration by Governments;

"(e) To promote the contribution of the relevant international scientific and other professional communities to the acquisition, assessment and exchange of environmental knowledge and information and, as appropriate, to the technical aspects of the formulation and implementation of environmental programmes within the United Nations system;

"(f) To maintain under continuing review the impact of national and international environmental policies and measures on developing countries, as well as the problem of additional costs that may be incurred by developing countries in the implementation of environmental programmes and projects, and to ensure that such programmes and projects shall be compatible with the development plans and priorities of those countries;

"(g) To review and approve annually the programme of utilization of resources of the Environment Fund" [established in section III of the resolution].

261. In the same resolution, the General Assembly decided that "a small secretariat shall be established in the United Nations to serve as a focal point for environmental action and co-ordination within the United Nations system in such a way as to ensure a high degree of effective management."

Membership and composition of the Governing Council of UNEP

262. In accordance with section I, paragraph 1, of Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII), the Governing Council is composed of 58 members elected by the General Assembly on the following basis:

(a) Sixteen seats for African States;

(b) Thirteen seats for Asian States;

(c) Six seats for Eastern European States;

(d) Ten seats for Latin American and Caribbean States;

(e) Thirteen seats for Western European and other States.

Term of office

263. By its decision 43/406 of 24 October 1988, the Assembly decided to change, beginning on 1 January 1990, the term of office of the members of the Governing Council from three to four years.

Reporting procedure

264. In section I, paragraph 3, of its resolution 2997 (XXVII), the Assembly decided "that the Governing Council shall report annually to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council, which will transmit to the Assembly such comments on the report as it may deem necessary, particularly with regard to questions of co-ordination and to the relationship of environmental policies and programmes within the United Nations system to overall economic and social policies and priorities". The reports of the Governing Council are presented as supplements to the Official Records of the General Assembly.

Frequency of meetings

265. The Governing Council met annually until 1987. In its resolution 42/185 of 11 December 1987, the General Assembly decided "that there shall be no regular session of the Governing Council in 1988 and that beginning in 1989, the regular sessions of the Council shall be held in odd-numbered years".

9. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Terms of reference

266. In its resolution 319 (IV) of 3 December 1949, the General Assembly decided "to establish, as of 1 January 1951, a High Commissioner's Office for Refugees" and "to renew, no later than at its eighth regular session, the arrangements for the High Commissioner's Office for Refugees with a view to

determining whether the Office should be continued beyond 31 December 1953". The Assembly decided subsequently to continue the Office of the High Commissioner for further periods of five years, as of 1 January 1954, by its resolutions 727 (VIII) of 23 October 1953, 1165 (XII) of 26 November 1957, 1783 (XVII) of 7 December 1962, 2294 (XXII) of 11 December 1967, 2957 (XXVII) of 12 December 1972, 32/68 of 8 December 1977, 37/196 of 18 December 1982 and 42/108 of 7 December 1987, the last resolution covering the period 1 January 1989 to 31 December 1993.

267. The annex to Assembly resolution 319 (IV) provided that "the High Commissioner should be elected by the General Assembly, on the nomination of the Secretary-General, for a term of three years from 1 January 1951". The duration of subsequent mandates has varied never to exceed five years. The current High Commissioner was elected by the Assembly in its decision 45/319 of 21 December 1990 for a period of three years ending on 31 December 1993.

268. The terms of reference of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees were first set out in Assembly resolution 319 (IV) and further elaborated in Assembly resolution 428 (V) of 14 December 1950, the annex to which contains the "Statute of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees". According to paragraph 1 of the Statute, "the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, acting under the authority of the General Assembly, shall assume the function of providing international protection, under the auspices of the United Nations, to refugees who fall within the scope of the present Statute and of seeking permanent solutions for the problem of refugees by assisting governments and, subject to the approval of the governments concerned, private organizations to facilitate the voluntary repatriation of such refugees, or their assimilation within new national communities".

269. Under paragraph 8 of the statute, "the High Commissioner shall provide for the protection of refugees falling under the competence of his Office by:

> "(a) Promoting the conclusion and ratification of international conventions for the protection of refugees, supervising their application and proposing amendments thereto;
>
> "(b) Promoting through special agreements with governments the execution of any measures calculated to improve the situation of refugees and to reduce the number requiring protection;
>
> "(c) Assisting governmental and private efforts to promote voluntary repatriation or assimilation within new national communities;
>
> "(d) Promoting the admission of refugees, not excluding those in the most destitute categories, to the territories of States;
>
> "(e) Endeavouring to obtain permission for refugees to transfer their assets and especially those necessary for their resettlement;

"(f) Obtaining from governments information concerning the number and conditions of refugees in their territories and the laws and regulations concerning them;

"(g) Keeping in close touch with the governments and inter-governmental organizations concerned;

"(h) Establishing contact in such manner as he may think best with private organizations dealing with refugee questions;

"(i) Facilitating the co-ordination of the efforts of private organizations concerned with the welfare of refugees."

Executive Committee of the Programme of the High Commissioner

270. At the request of the Assembly in its resolution 1166 (XII) of 26 November 1957, the Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 672 (XXV) of 30 April 1958, established an Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to take the place of the Executive Committee of the United Nations Refugee Fund. The terms of reference of the Executive Committee were set forth in Assembly resolution 1166 (XII) as follows:

"(a) To give directives to the High Commissioner for the liquidation of the United Nations Refugee Fund;

"(b) To advise the High Commissioner, at his request, in the exercise of his functions under the statute of his Office;

"(c) To advise the High Commissioner as to whether it is appropriate for international assistance to be provided through his Office in order to help solve specific refugee problems remaining unsolved after 31 December 1958 or arising after that date;

"(d) To authorize the High Commissioner to make appeals for funds to enable him to solve the refugee problems referred to in subparagraph (c) above;

"(e) To approve projects for assistance to refugees coming within the scope of subparagraph (c) above;

"(f) To give directives to the High Commissioner for the use of the emergency fund to be established under the terms of paragraph 7 [of resolution 1166 (XII)]".

Membership and composition of the Executive Committee

271. General Assembly resolution 1166 (XII) provides that the Executive Committee should "consist of representatives of .... States Members of the United Nations or members of any of the specialized agencies, to be elected by the Council on the widest geographical basis from those States with a

demonstrated interest in, and devotion to, the solution of the refugee problem". The Executive Committee currently consists of 44 members.

Term of office

272. The term of office of members is normally for the duration of the mandate of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Reporting procedure

273. In accordance with paragraph 7 of the annex to Assembly resolution 319 (IV), the High Commissioner reports annually to the Assembly through the Economic and Social Council. The Executive Committee reports likewise. The report is presented as a supplement to the Official Records of the General Assembly.

Frequency of meetings

274. The Executive Committee meets once a year.

10. United Nations Population Fund

Terms of reference

275. The United Nations Population Fund was established in 1967 as a trust fund (later named the United Nations Fund for Population Activities) by the Secretary-General in response to Economic and Social Council resolution 1084 (XXXIX) of 30 July 1965 and General Assembly resolution 2211 (XXI) of 17 December 1966 calling for an expanded programme of action in the field of population. Subsequently, the Secretary-General requested the Administrator of UNDP to administer the United Nations Fund for Population Activities.

276. The General Assembly, in paragraph 2 of its resolution 3019 (XXVII) of 18 December 1972, decided "to place the United Nations Fund for Population Activities under the authority of the General Assembly" and decided further, "without prejudice to the overall responsibilities and policy functions of the Economic and Social Council, that the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme, subject to conditions to be established by the Economic and Social Council, shall be the governing body of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities and invites the Governing Council to concern itself with the financial and administrative policies relating to the work programme, the fundraising methods and the annual budget of the Fund".

277. The Assembly, in paragraph 3 of the same resolution, invited the Governing Council "to organize itself in such a way that it can exercise effectively these functions, taking into account the separate identity of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities and its need to operate under the guidance of the Economic and Social Council, in close relationship with interested Governments and with appropriate international and national bodies, governmental and non-governmental, interested in population activities".

278. In paragraph 1 of its resolution 1763 (LIV) of 18 May 1973, the Economic and Social Council stated that "the aims and purposes of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities are:

"(a) To build up, on an international basis, with the assistance of the competent bodies of the United Nations system, the knowledge and the capacity to respond to national, regional, interregional and global needs in the population and family planning fields; to promote coordination in planning and programming; and to cooperate with all concerned;

"(b) To promote awareness, both in developed and in developing countries, of the social, economic and environmental implications of national and international population problems, of the human rights aspects of family planning, and of possible strategies to deal with them, in accordance with the plans and priorities of each country;

"(c) To extend systematic and sustained assistance to developing countries at their request in dealing with their population problems, such assistance to be afforded in forms and by means requested by the recipient countries and best suited to meet the individual country's needs;

"(d) To play a leading role in the United Nations system in promoting population programmes and to coordinate projects supported by the Fund".

279. The Council in paragraph 2 of the same resolution also decided "that the United Nations Fund for Population Activities should invite countries to utilize the most appropriate implementing agents for their programmes, recognizing that the primary responsibility for implementing rests with the countries concerned".

280. In resolution 2025 (LXI) of 4 August 1976, the Council endorsed the following general principles to be applied by UNFPA in making future allocations of resources:

"(a) To promote population activities proposed in international strategies, particularly the World Population Plan of Action;

"(b) To meet the needs of developing countries which have the most urgent need for assistance in the area of population activities, in view of their population problems;

"(c) To respect the sovereign right of each nation to formulate, promote and implement its own population policies;

"(d) To promote the recipient countries' self-reliance;

"(e) To give special attention to meeting the needs of disadvantaged population groups".

281. These five general principles and the request were later incorporated into General Assembly resolution 31/170 of 21 December 1976.

282. In its resolution 34/104 of 14 December 1979, the General Assembly, inter alia:

(a) Affirmed "that the United Nations Fund for Population Activities, placed under the authority of the General Assembly by resolution 3019 (XXVII), is a subsidiary organ of the Assembly in terms of Article 22 of the Charter of the United Nations, without prejudice to section V of the annex to Assembly resolution 32/197 of 20 December 1977 or to the mandates of other organizations of the United Nations system concerned with population";

(b) Invited "the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme to consider devoting a specific period of time during its sessions to adequate and separate consideration of items relating to the United Nations Fund for Population Activities";

(c) Invited "the Secretary-General to arrange, in consultation with the members of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, for the United Nations Fund for Population Activities to participate in all aspects of the work of that Committee and its subsidiary machinery";

(d) Reaffirmed "that the United Nations Fund for Population Activities should continue to avail itself of the services of the United Nations Development Programme, including those of its resident representatives".

283. By its decision 42/430 of 11 December 1987, the General Assembly changed the name of the Fund to the "United Nations Population Fund", while retaining the abbreviation "UNFPA", on the understanding that this change of name would in no way change the mandate, aims and purpose of the Fund or the role and functions of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly with respect to the Fund.

Reporting procedures

284. By its resolution 3019 (XXVII), the Assembly invited the Governing Council of UNDP to submit annually a report on the activities of the Fund to the Economic and Social Council.

11. United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

285. The General Assembly, by its resolution 302 (IV) of 8 December 1949, established the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) "to carry out in collaboration with local governments the direct relief and works programmes as recommended by the Economic Survey Mission" (resolution 302 (IV), para. 7 (a)). The Assembly has extended the

Agency's mandate several times, most recently until 30 June 1993, in its resolution 44/47 A of 8 December 1989.

286. In its resolution 302 (IV), the Assembly also established an Advisory Commission to advise and assist the Director (now Commissioner-General) of the Agency in the execution of the programme.

287. In its resolution 2656 (XXV) of 7 December 1970, the Assembly, having noted with grave concern the acute financial situation of the Agency, established "a Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, consisting of nine Member States, to study all aspects of financing of the Agency", which is to assist the Secretary-General and Commissioner-General in reaching solutions to the problems posed by the Agency's financial crisis. The Assembly has annually extended the Working Group's mandate.

Reporting procedure

288. In paragraph 21 of its resolution 302 (IV), the Assembly requested the Director (now Commissioner-General), who, by paragraph 9 (a) of the resolution was made responsible to the Assembly for the operation of the programme, to submit to the General Assembly an annual report on the work of the Agency and to the Secretary-General such other reports as the Agency might wish to bring to the attention of the members of the United Nations, or its appropriate organs. The report is presented as a supplement to the Official Records of the General Assembly. The way in which the Agency is currently discharging its mandate is set out in detail in the report of the Commissioner-General for the period July 1990 to June 1991 (A/46/13 and Add.1).

12. World Food Council

Terms of reference

289. The World Food Council was established by the General Assembly in its resolution 3348 (XXIX) of 17 December 1974, "at the ministerial or plenipotentiary level to function as an organ of the United Nations ... and having the purposes, functions and mode of operation set forth in resolution XXII adopted by the World Food Conference on 16 November 1974". Those functions are as follows:

(a) To review periodically major problems and policy issues affecting the world food situation, and the steps being proposed or taken to resolve them by Governments, by the United Nations system and its regional organizations, and to recommend remedial action as appropriate. The scope of the Council's review should extend to all aspects of world food problems in order to adopt an integrated approach towards their solution;

(b) To establish its own programme of action for coordination of relevant United Nations bodies and agencies, and while doing so, to give

special attention to the problems of the least developed countries and the countries most seriously affected;

(c) To maintain contacts with, receive reports from, give advice to, and make recommendations to United Nations bodies and agencies with regard to the formulation and follow-up of world food policies.

290. In subsequent resolutions, the General Assembly referred to the programme of work and mandate of the Council. In its resolution 45/207 of 21 December 1990, the Assembly urged the Council, "within its mandate, to improve coordination of national and international action towards a more concerted attack on hunger and to examine the food production challenges facing different regions of the developing world in the 1990s, and also urges it to continue sensitizing the international community to the nature, causes and consequences of hunger and malnutrition and to continue recommending appropriate practical policies for remedial action".

Membership and composition

291. In accordance with Assembly resolution 3348 (XXIX), the Council consists of 36 members nominated by the Economic and Social Council and elected by the Assembly. They are elected according to the following pattern:

(a) Nine members from African States;

(b) Eight members from Asian States;

(c) Seven members from Latin American and Caribbean States;

(d) Four members from Eastern European States;

(e) Eight members from Western European and other States.

Term of office

292. The term of office of members is three years (Assembly resolution 3348 (XXIX), para. 8).

Reporting procedure

293. General Assembly resolution 3348 (XXIX) provides that the Council reports to the Assembly through the Economic and Social Council. Its reports are presented as supplements to the Official Records of the General Assembly.

Frequency of meetings

294. The Council meets once a year at the ministerial and plenipotentiary level and normally holds one or more regional or interregional consultations annually at the working level on specific issues identified by the Council, in accordance with its rules of procedure.

13. World Food Programme

Terms of reference

295. The World Food Programme was established initially on an experimental basis, as a joint programme of the United Nations and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) by the General Assembly in its resolution 1714 (XVI) of 19 December 1961.

296. The Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes was established by the Assembly in the same resolution under the name "United Nations/FAO Inter-governmental Committee" "to provide guidance on the policy, administration and operations" of the World Food Programme.

297. Under the provisions of paragraph 9 of the annex to resolution 1714 (XVI), "subject to the guidance of the Inter-governmental Committee, the Programme will be carried on by a joint FAO/United Nations administrative unit. ... In the administration of the Programme attention should be paid to:

> "(a) Establishing adequate and orderly procedures on a world basis for meeting emergency food needs and emergencies inherent in chronic malnutrition (this could include the establishment of food reserves);
>
> "(b) Assisting in pre-school and school feeding; and
>
> "(c) Implementing pilot projects, with the multilateral use of food as an aid to economic and social development, particularly when related to labour-intensive projects and rural welfare."

298. The Programme was extended by the Assembly in its resolution 2095 (XX) of 20 December 1965, "on a continuing basis for as long as multilateral food aid is found feasible and desirable, on the understanding that the Programme will be regularly reviewed before each pledging conference and that, if circumstances so require, it may be enlarged, curtailed or terminated at the end of any period for which resources have been pledged".

Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes

299. The Assembly, in its resolution 3404 (XXX) of 28 November 1975, decided that "the United Nations/FAO Intergovernmental Committee of the World Food Programme shall be reconstituted as the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes" and that, "in addition to discharging the functions hitherto exercised by the Intergovernmental Committee, the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes shall help to evolve and coordinate short-term and longer-term food aid policies recommended by the World Food Conference and shall in particular:

> "(a) Provide general guidance on the policy, administration and operation of the World Food Programme;

"(b) Provide a forum for intergovernmental consultations on national and international food aid programmes and policies;

"(c) Review periodically general trends in food aid requirements and availabilities;

"(d) Recommend to Governments, through the World Food Council, improvements in food aid policies and programmes on such matters as programme priorities, commodity composition of food aid and other related subjects;

"(e) Formulate proposals for the more effective co-ordination of multilateral, bilateral and non-governmental food aid programmes, including emergency food aid;

"(f) Review periodically the implementation of the recommendations made by the World Food Conference on food aid policies".

Membership and composition of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes

300. The Assembly, in its resolution 3404 (XXX), decided that the Committee would comprise 30 States Members of the United Nations or members of FAO, 15 of those members to be elected by the Economic and Social Council and 15 by the Council of FAO, it being understood that outgoing members would be eligible for re-election.

301. In the same resolution, the Assembly requested the Economic and Social Council and the Council of FAO, when they elected members of the Committee, to take into account the need for the balanced representation of economically developed and developing countries and other relevant factors, such as the representation of potential participating countries, both contributing and recipient, equitable geographical distribution and the representation of both developed and developing countries having commercial interests in international trade in foodstuffs, especially those highly dependent on such trade.

Term of office

302. The term of office of members is three years (Assembly resolution 3404 (XXX), para. 37).

Reporting procedure

303. In its resolution 3404 (XXX), the Assembly decided that "the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes shall report annually to the Economic and Social Council and to the Council of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, which, in considering the reports of the Committee, shall take into account the responsibilities of the World Food Council, and that the Committee shall submit periodic and special reports to the World Food Council".

304. The Committee reports to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council. Its reports are issued as documents of the Council.

Frequency of meetings

305. In its resolution 3404 (XXX), the Assembly resolved that "the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes should normally hold regular sessions twice a year and such special sessions as it considers necessary or as called for by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, in consultation with the Executive Director of the World Food Programme, or on request submitted in writing by at least one third of the members of the Committee".

Review of the governance of the World Food Programme

306. General Assembly resolution 45/218 of 21 December 1990 concerns the governance of the World Food Programme. In this resolution, the Assembly:

> "1. Recognizes the need for improved governance arrangements for the World Food Programme consistent with its programme requirements, its accountability to Member States and its characteristics as an entity of the United Nations system;
>
> "2. Welcomes the decision taken by the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes at its twenty-ninth session to establish a sub-committee on the governance of the World Food Programme and the relationships between the United Nations, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the World Food Programme, and urges the Committee to complete expeditiously its review of governance arrangements for the Programme;
>
> "3. Urges the Committee, in conducting its review, to take into account the need for enhanced governance arrangements and improved efficiency and effectiveness of the World Food Programme and enhanced accountability to member States".

Matters for decision by the Assembly at its forty-sixth session

307. In its decision 1991/298 of 26 July 1991, the Economic and Social Council, having considered the report of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes on the work of its first special session (E/1991/69), decided to endorse the revised General Regulations of the World Food Programme contained in appendix B to the report and to transmit them to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session for final approval.

308. In accordance with those revised General Regulations, the Committee would be composed of 42 States Members of the United Nations or member nations of FAO, 27 of whom should be developing countries and 15 from more economically developed Member States or members of FAO. The Committee would exercise the

responsibility for the intergovernmental supervision and direction of the Programme, including food aid policy, administration, operations, funds and finances, and would carry out such other responsibilities as would be conferred upon it in the General Regulations. The Committee would normally hold regular sessions twice a year and such special sessions as it considered necessary.

B. Ad hoc bodies

1. Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate Change

Terms of reference

309. The General Assembly, in paragraph 1 of its resolution 45/212 of 21 December 1990, decided "to establish a single intergovernmental negotiating process under the auspices of the General Assembly, supported by the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Meteorological Organization, for the preparation by an Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee of an effective framework convention on climate change, containing appropriate commitments, and any related instruments as might be agreed upon, taking into account proposals that may be submitted by States participating in the negotiating process, the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the results achieved at international meetings on the subject, including the Second World Climate Conference". The Assembly considered "that the negotiations for the preparation of an effective framework convention on climate change, containing appropriate commitments, and any related legal instruments as might be agreed upon, should be completed prior to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in June 1992 and opened for signature during the Conference".

Membership and composition

310. In paragraph 2 of the same resolution, the Assembly decided "that the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee should be open to all States Members of the United Nations or members of the specialized agencies, with the participation of observers in accordance with the established practice of the General Assembly".

Reporting procedure

311. In paragraph 24 of the resolution, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to it at its forty-sixth session a report on the progress of the negotiations.

Frequency of meetings

312. In the same resolution, the Assembly decided that the first negotiating session should be held in Washington, D.C., in February 1991 and that, subject to review of the timetable at the end of each negotiating session and taking into account the schedule of other intergovernmental meetings on environment and development matters, in particular the sessions of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, further meetings should be held at Geneva and at Nairobi, in May/June, September and November/December 1991 and, as appropriate, between January and June 1992. The Assembly further decided that the maximum duration of each of the negotiating sessions should be two weeks.

313. The first session was held in Washington, D.C. from 4 to 14 February 1991, the second session at Geneva from 19 to 28 June 1991, the third session at Nairobi from 9 to 20 September 1991 and the fourth session is scheduled to be held at Geneva from 9 to 20 December 1991. Session reports are issued as documents of the General Assembly.

2. Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development

Terms of reference

314. The General Assembly in its resolution 44/228 of 22 December 1989 decided to convene the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and affirmed that the Conference should elaborate strategies and measures to halt and reverse the effects of environmental degradation in the context of increased national and international efforts to promote sustainable and environmentally sound development in all countries.

315. In its resolution 45/211 of 21 December 1990, the Assembly decided that the Conference should take place at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 1 to 12 June 1992 and urged that representation at the Conference be at the level of Head of State or Government.

316. In section II, paragraph 1, of its resolution 44/228, the Assembly decided to establish the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and further decided in paragraph 8 "that the Preparatory Committee shall:

> "(a) Draft the provisional agenda of the Conference, in accordance with the provisions of the present resolution;
>
> "(b) Adopt guidelines to enable States to take a harmonized approach in their preparations and reporting;
>
> "(c) Prepare draft decisions for the Conference and submit them to the Conference for consideration and adoption".

Membership and composition

317. In section II, paragraph 1, of the same resolution, the Assembly decided "that the Preparatory Committee shall be open to all State Members of the United Nations or members of the specialized agencies, with the participation of observers, in accordance with the established practice of the General Assembly".

Reporting procedure

318. In section II, paragraphs 16 and 17, of the resolution, the Assembly requested "the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee to report to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth and forty-sixth sessions on the progress of work of the Committee" and decided "to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-fifth and forty-sixth sessions an item entitled 'United Nations Conference on Environment and Development'".

Frequency of meetings

319. In its resolution 44/228, the Assembly decided "that the Preparatory Committee shall hold an organizational session of two weeks' duration in March 1990 and a final session, both at United Nations Headquarters, as well as three additional substantive sessions, the first at Nairobi and the following two at Geneva, the timing and duration of which shall be determined by the Preparatory Committee at its organizational session".

320. The Preparatory Committee held its first session at Nairobi from 6 to 31 August 1990, its second session at Geneva from 18 March to 5 April 1991 and its third session also at Geneva from 12 August to 4 September 1991. The next and last session is to be held at United Nations Headquarters from 9 March to 3 April 1992. Session reports are issued as supplements to the Official Records of the General Assembly.